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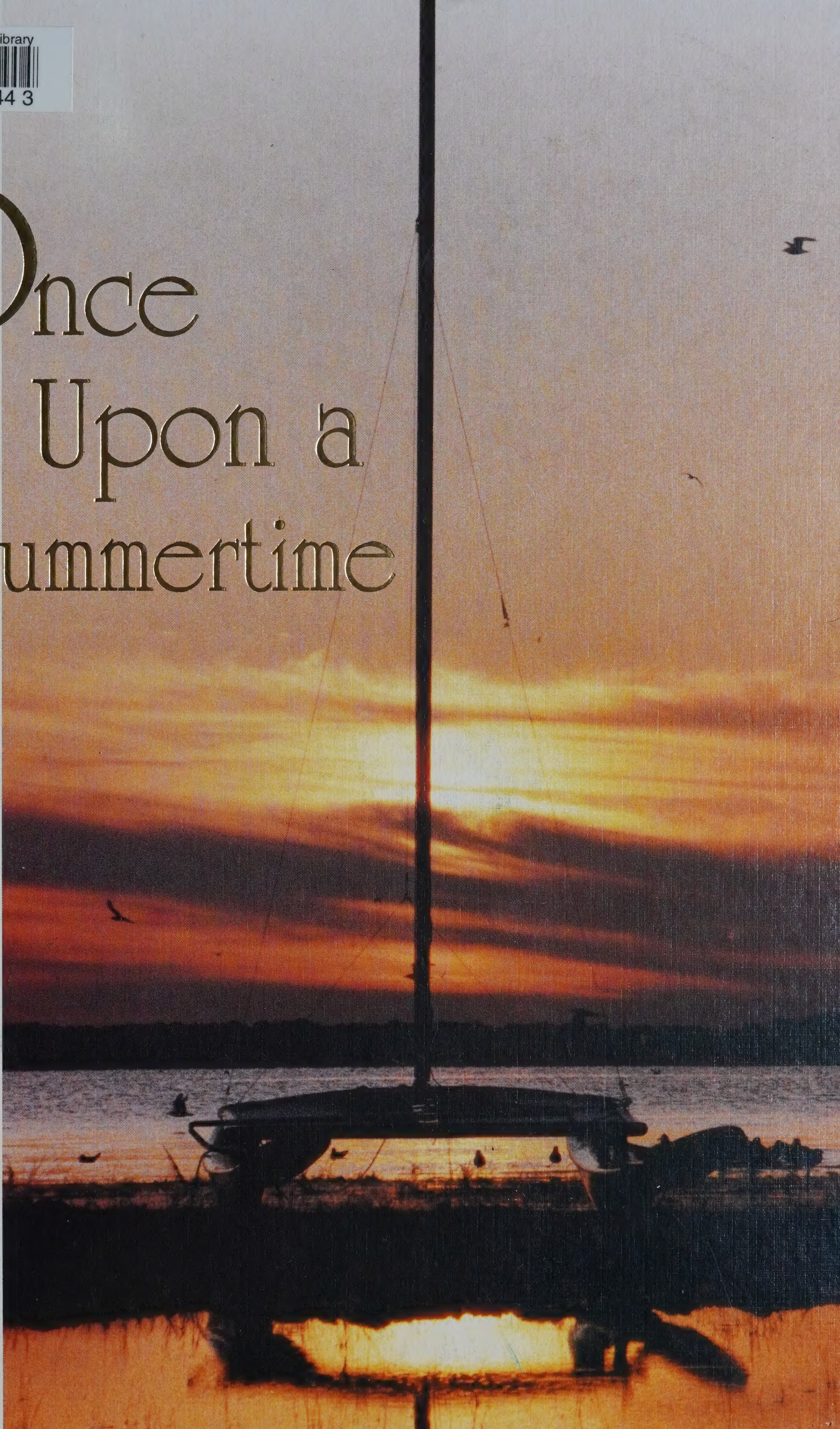

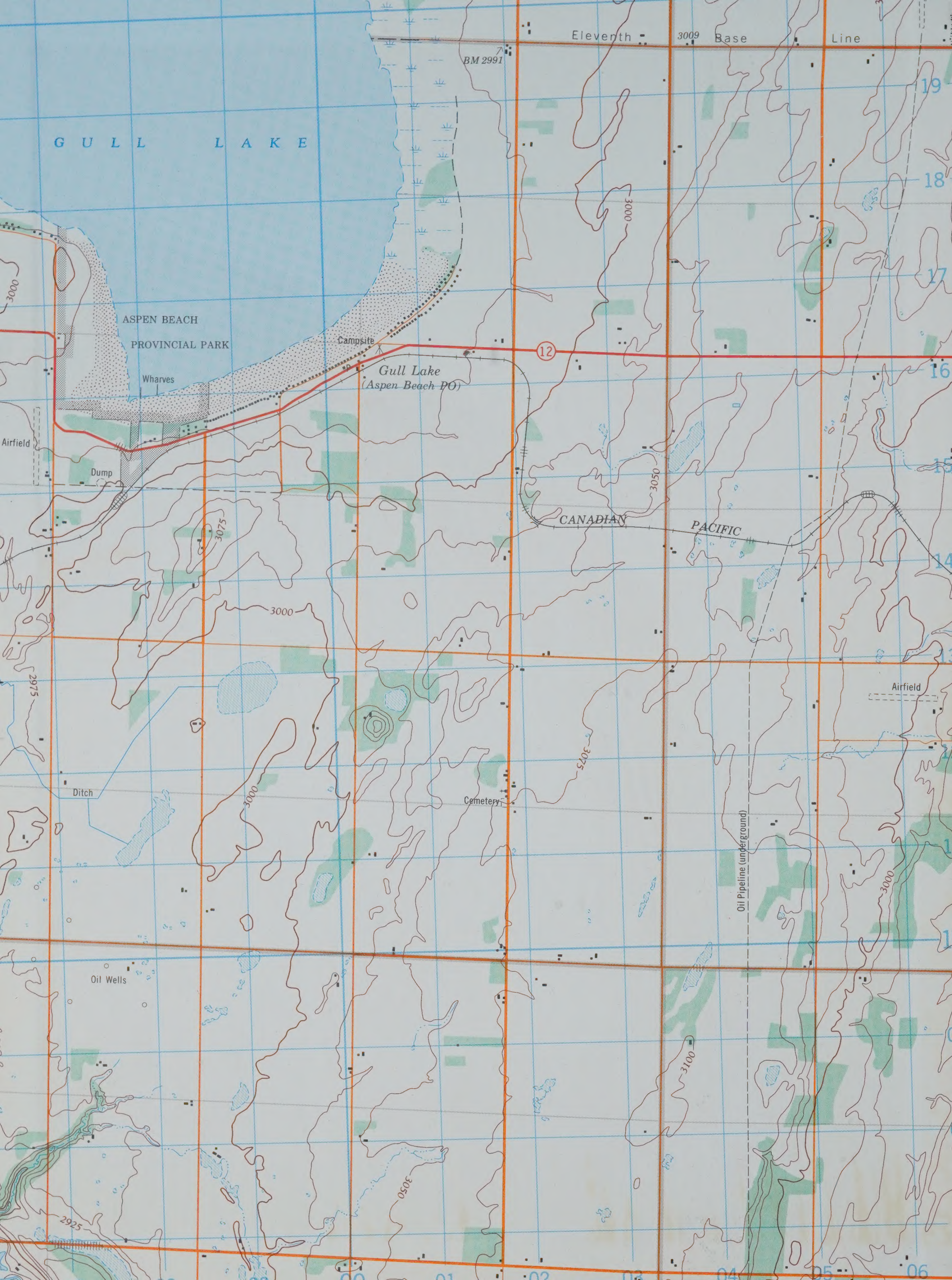
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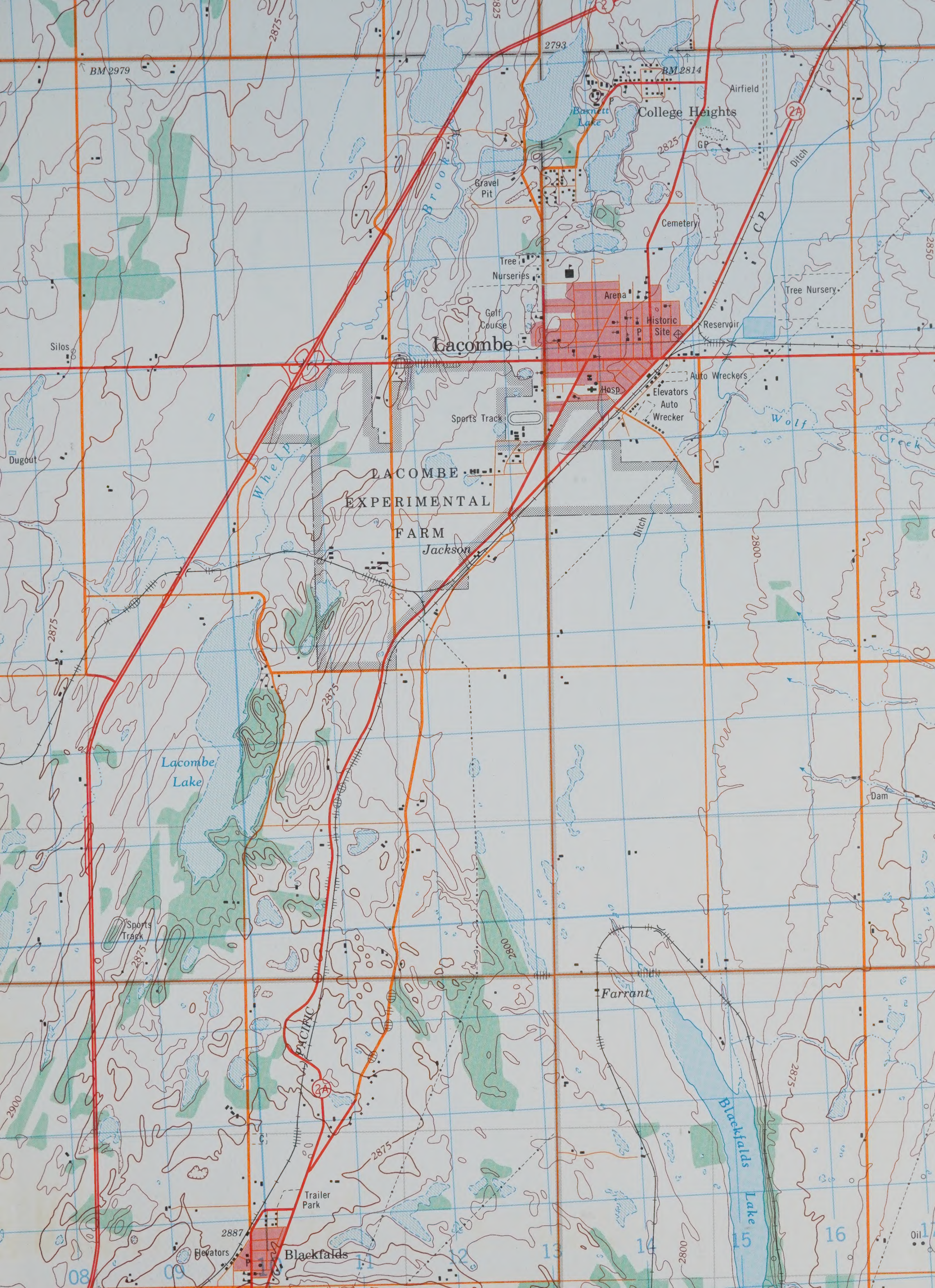
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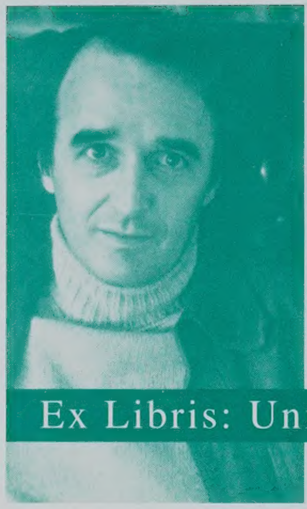

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Education is the progressive discovery of our own ignorance.
—Will Durant

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Once Upon a Summertime

A History of

The Summer Village of Gull Lake

75th Anniversary

1988

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PREFACE

By Catherine Moriarty

The story of the Summer Village of Gull Lake is a story about people. It is the story about the families who settled there, about the men and women who built the hotels, who managed the first stores, who provided the ice and the wood, who went up and down the back road calling on those who built the first cottages to sell milk, butter, vegetables, chickens and home baking.

The first vacationers came by democrat and horse and buggy from nearby Lacombe to catch their share of the abundant fish from the lake and to enjoy a day at the beach and in the water. Before long others came from the cities of Calgary and Edmonton by train to drive out from Lacombe for the day or to camp. Gradually lots were sold and cottages sprang up. As the years passed those who had enjoyed a days' outing as a child returned to buy a cottage of their own and bring their children.

And so the Summer Village grew as a family community.

Many of today's cottagers are the descendants of the first owners, many are newcomers, but each generation has its own happy memories of long summer days spent at "The Lake."

This is their story. But the history of Gull Lake began long before the white man came.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

The collection of stories and articles in this book come from the people that have lived and worked in the area around Gull Lake, Alberta over the last one hundred years. Gull Lake has a colorful and interesting history, which would one day be lost forever without such a book.

The world has changed a good deal during the span of time this book covers and it is hoped that both present and future generations of Gull Lake families and friends will find special stories in this publication that rekindle fond memories or impart new knowledge of our special little part of the world.

This book would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Marjorie Campbell, Cay Moriarty, Gordon Connell, Bob Blackett, John Carruthers, Shirley Grace and Catherine Harradence.

The Council of the Summer Village of Gull Lake would like to extend it's appreciation to this committee and to the many other people that assisted in the preparation of this book in time for the Community's celebration in August, 1988 of its 75th Anniversary as Alberta's first and oldest Incorporated Summer Village.

Happy Reading!

Mike Fenerty, Mayor

Ken Fargey, Councillor

Lyle Kilpatrick, Councillor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the annual meeting in July, 1987, the council of the Summer Village of Gull Lake requested volunteers to organize the 75th anniversary celebration for 1988. An anniversary committee consisting of Bob and Edith Blackett, Marjorie Campbell, John Carruthers, Jan Colter, Gordon Connell, Shirley Grace, Catherine Harradence, Gerry Hepworth, Marj Hutchinson, Jean Johnson, May Johnson, Helen Learmonth, Janis McGregor, Catherine Moriarty and Syd Sutherland was formed. Within two weeks the committee had prepared and hand delivered an informational letter and questionnaire to the cottage residents. The letter outlined three ideas which had been suggested as anniversary activities: the writing of an historical book, the undertaking of a special project and the hosting of a celebration weekend.

This book is the result of the first idea. Much of the information and many of the pictures used in this book were obtained from the responses to the questionnaires. We sincerely thank all those who contributed and we apologize to those whose family histories were not incorporated into this book. If there is one regret we have, it is that we did not have the time, nor the resources, to collect the history on each and every cottage. It is well recognized that certain of the cottage owners not mentioned in this book contributed a lot to the development of the Summer Village.

Please be aware that much of the information between these covers is based upon the memories that have been verbally passed down from generation to generation. Although the editorial committee has done its best to ensure the incidents and dates are consistent, they may not be exact.

You should also be aware that the price of the book reflects only a portion of its actual cost. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation donated $3000.00 toward expenses, and many individuals contributed hours upon hours of time and effort. We are particularly indebted to the editorial committee of Marjorie Campbell, Gordon Connell, Shirley Grace, Catherine Harradence and Catherine Moriarty.

Their efforts have been assisted by Bob and Edith Blackett, John Carruthers, Jean Johnson and Chuck McLean. Without the dedication of the foregoing, as well as the participation of those individuals listed below, this book would not have been possible.

The second proposal, to undertake a special project, was suggested to ensure the community had a permanent memento of its first 75 years. A sign which reads "Summer Village of Gull Lake - Incorporated 1913" was erected at the entrance to the Village, and playground equipment was installed at the Village Hall.

Neither of these projects could have been completed without the genuine and immediate support of the corporations and individuals that donated funds on short notice to ensure the projects would be ready for the summer of 1988. The names of the contributors will be engraved on a plaque to be located at the Village Hall.

The third proposal was to host a celebration weekend for past and present Gull Lake residents and visitors. Celebration activities and family reunions have been planned for the weekend of August 12, 13 and 14, 1988. The actual date of incorporation of the Summer Village was March 25, 1913 but the August date was selected for the celebration weekend.

The publication of the book, the erection of sign, and the installation of the playground equipment were all undertaken as a testimony to the people and events of the the Summer Village of Gull Lake over the past 75 years. We hope to continue our proud tradition and ensure the Summer Village remains a focal point for our excellent, but all too short Alberta summers.

We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance;

Cliff Campbell, Marguerite Connell, Herb Harriman, Ron and Lynne Kilpatrick, Pat Lavery, Karen McDermid, Vic Moisan, Sharon and Jerry Williamson, Aspen Beach Ladies Club, Butch Treleaven and Gordon Miller (and the staff at the Lacombe Globe),Herb Kennedy of Parkland Colorpress Ltd, Parkland Savings and Credit Union and Marilyn Symons of p.o.s. Computer Workshop.

ABOUT RICHARD L. COULTON. . .

Born in England, Richard L. Coulton received his secondary education in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, his post-secondary education at Mount Royal College (where he earned a Learning Assistant certificate) and at theUniversity of Calgary where he studied archaeology and geography.

A long-standing member of the Society for Nautical Research, he has published technical articles both on nautical matters in The Mariner's Mirror (journal of the SNR)and on vertebrate palaeontology in popular earth science journals. He began his writing career in 1969 with the sale of an article to a model railroad magazine and has since had his work published in three countries. Richard Coulton resides in Bentley, Alberta.

PICTURE CREDITS

The publishers would like to thank all individuals who supplied pictures for use in this book. Unfortunately, the list of contributors is far too lengthy to publish. Their willingness to share their pictures with others is greatly appreciated.

Special mention should be given to Bob Blackett for the cover picture, and to Richard Coulton for all the pictures and illustrations which accompany his articles (exception - pages 36 and 37) and for the map on page 55.

The five pictures of members of the Barford family were taken and developed by Vernon Barford in the early 1910's. His knowledge and skill in photography was far advanced for his time.

The picture committee would also like to acknowledge the late Dr. Joe Moriarty whose photographic skills provided us with so many excellent pictures. His pictures have greatly enhanced the picture section of this book.

The Glenbow Museum, Lacombe Library, and the Provincial Archives have been very cooperative in supplying pictures for use in this book.

The Map on the inside front and back cover is based on information taken from Topographic Map Sheet 83 A/5, Red Deer © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada with the permission of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

Thanks to the two young girls on the last page of the book, who shall remain nameless!

75th Anniversary Celebration Committee

(seated) John Carruthers, Catherine Moriarty, Marjorie Campbell, Gordon Connell, Bob Blackett, (standing) Shirley Grace, Janis McGregor, Catherine Harradence, Gerry Hepworth, Jean Johnson, Edith Blackett.

(Missing) Jan Colter, Marjory Hutchison, May Johnson, Helen Learmonth, Syd Sutherland.

IN
THE
BEGINNING

CHAPTER ONE

THE LAKE

By Richard L. Coulton

Our story begins fifteen or twenty thousand years ago, near the end of the last great Pleistocene Ice Age, when almost all of Western and Northern Canada still lay deep beneath ice.

There were two great ice-sheets. One was a mountain ice-sheet, called by geologists the Cordilleran, which lay along the Rocky Mountains, thrusting out glaciers to the east and west, and of which the Columbia Ice Field is a surviving remnant. The other was the far bigger Laurentide Ice Sheet, the great inland ice-sheet centered near Hudson Bay and which extended almost as far west as the Rockies.

An ice-free corridor extended parallel to the mountains but some distance to the east of them, where the two ice-sheets did not touch. The walls of this ice-free corridor were never fixed. As the centuries passed and the climate varied, the sides of the corridor moved to the east or west in response to greater snowfalls or faster melting. A particular piece of ground in the region of the ice-free corridor could be covered in succession by ice from one side then the other.

This appears to have happened in the region of our story. That the Laurentide was the last ice-sheet to cover the area appears almost certain. Retreating glaciers leave behind a distinctive mixture of dirt and rocks called till or boulder-clay, and a deposit of this material discovered in what is now the ravine of Outlet Creek was found to contain fossilized sea-creatures showing strong indications of having originated either in a fossil deposit near Fort McMurray or in a fossil deposit on the shore of Great Slave Lake. Whichever it was, the Laurentide Ice Sheet would have carried them there.

Pebbles from the same till suggest a similar story. Most rocks from the Canadian Shield are of quite different types from those found in the Rocky Mountains or on the prairies. Nearly two-thirds of the pebbles in the till seem to have come from the north, less than one-third from the mountains, with the few remaining being native to the prairies.

But to return to our story.

The glaciers began to disappear, with the Laurentide ice the last to go. The Laurentide ice disappeared from the region not primarily by a progressive melting-back of its southern and western edge, but by a patchy melting-through of the ice-sheet to leave an irregular and complex surface of rotting ice-blocks, water and bare ground. There never was a single glacier edge at this time, nor did the ice melt at a steady rate.

As the ice melted, the meltwater sometimes collected along its edge to form large and small glacial lakes, sometimes collected in hollows left in the ground surface, sometimes flowed out of the area along channels it eroded along an ice-sheet edge, which, if eroded deep enough, would continue to carry the water long after the ice itself had disappeared from the vicinity. Sometimes, depending upon changes in climate and ground-slopes, all these things might happen, one after another.

Visualize a particular time when the disappearance of the ice from the region is well under way. The land looks something like this:

From where Ponoka will one day stand the ice stretches to the north and east. An irregular zone of stagnant, rotting ice ten or more kilometres wide extends to the northwest and southeast, passing to the north of the site of Lacombe, from which a ten-kilometre-wide lake (which scientists will call Glacial Lake Red Deer) extends to the southwest as far as Bowden.

West of Lacombe lies a detached block of rotting ice measuring thirty or more kilometres from north to south, a dozen from east to west. The block melts on its northern and eastern edges, the water flowing south along the western edge then eastward to empty into Glacial Lake Red Deer.

Perhaps because of a period of particularly fast melting, perhaps because of variations in the hardness of the bedrock beneath, the stream cuts deep -- deep enough to continue to drain groundwater from its northern reaches long after the ice has gone. Until the present day, in fact. And so is born the Blindman River.

The ice-block continues to melt. Never as thick as on the central and eastern prairies, the ice-sheet, when advancing, has not flattened this region to the same extent. Rises of land, even though at times completely covered by ice, remain in the bedrock. These circumstances affect the fate of our ice-block, for it melts down into an ice-sheet bounded on the west and east by hills, and dirt is washed down these slopes to fill in along the edges of the ice leaving, after the ice has completely melted, a shallow basin to hold the meltwater. A lake -- Gull Lake -- is born.

* * * * * *

Is this how the lake and the land around became what we see today? Perhaps not exactly. No one can be certain, for it was all finished twelve thousand or more years in the past.

But if not in exactly this way, then in some way very similar. From the several distinctive types of hills and plains around the basin of the lake to the very silts and gravels from which those landforms are shaped, the landscape of the Gull Lake region offers silent but powerful testimony to the great ice-sheets that once lay heavy and cold upon the land.

Hills south of Gull Lake: A landscape moulded by ice.

CHAPTER TWO

THE PREHISTORIC PEOPLES

By Richard L. Coulton

People have long lived near Gull Lake ... for many thousands of years. They may have first come when the chill of ice had not long left the land, when the Pleistocene Epoch was still fresh in the memory of time and the Holocene -- their age and ours -- had just begun. But these generations are, to us, shadowy figures.

The first people for whose presence in the region we have evidence lived at a time almost as remote. From their day to the first arrival of Europeans the majority of people living in the region of Gull Lake fed themselves by the hunting of big game, particularly buffalo. Archaeologists would refer to those big game hunters as Plains Indians.

We often think of the Plains Indians as the feather head-dressed horsemen of story and legend. But in the long tale of life at Gull Lake this mental picture is true for only the very end of prehistoric times. Most people can describe the basic aspects of the Plains Indian way of life when explorers and fur-traders first visited the Northern Plains. They were horsemen, bowmen, warriors; highly mobile and far-ranging hunters and raiders.

But there was a time when the Plains Indians were none of these things. Historically, not so long ago. The colourful, wide- ranging lifestyle itself lasted only two or three generations. The modern horse, a factor which probably did most to make such a lifestyle possible, was introduced to North America by European explorers, particularly the Spanish in Mexico and California, from where it spread northward, tribe by tribe.

An Assiniboine (Stoney) teepee.

So that highly nomadic, pageant-filled Plains Indian lifestyle described so vividly by the first European visitors to the Northern Plains was one the visitors had themselves helped to create. Far from being as eternal as the great grasslands it was a lifestyle which resembled more nearly a prairie fire, flaring suddenly into explosive brilliance, and as swiftly past.

That prairie fire of Plains Indian lifestyle -- centered on the horse -- burned in a period which archaeologists call the Protohistoric. From accounts and descriptions by European visitors to the Gull Lake region it is possible to deduce the identities of tribes living in the region as the Protohistoric ran its course.

Those historical records suggest that in the early 1700's a tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy (likely Bloods) lived in the region, perhaps sharing it with the Kootenays who lived to the west and who were later driven across the Rockies to the region they still inhabit. Around 1800 the Sarcee lived briefly in the region as they migrated south to the country around Calgary. Through the 1800's until the signing of the Treaties the Crees ranged into the region from the north and east while the Stonies (a branch of the Assiniboine) ranged into the region from the west.

There is no way to determine the identities of tribes who lived in the region during earlier, Prehistoric times. Tribes must have migrated during the Prehistoric much as they did in the Protohistoric. Some tribes, like the Cree, did not even live on the prairies until they got horses in the 1700's; others, like the Blackfoot, had already lived on the prairie for centuries -- not necessarily around Gull Lake. All one can say with certainty as to the identities of the prehistoric peoples who once lived around the lake is that they were North American Indians.

It is a common practice among prairie archaeologists today to divide those many years of the pre-horse Plains Indian into three periods called Early, Middle and Late Prehistoric, distinguished from each other in part by the animals hunted but primarily by the type of hunting weapon used. However, before the evidence of lifestyles around Gull Lake during these periods is considered in detail it is appropriate to review briefly what is known of the natural setting in which those peoples lived out their lives.

It has been noted that of the different species of snails and other molluscs found in central North America some live only in the southern half of the continent while others also range to the north. Deposits of snail shells from animals which lived after the Ice Age are found throughout Central and Southern Alberta, including the Blindman Valley near Gull Lake. By considering the different kinds of shells found in deposits of different ages, one study tried to determine the broad climatic changes which have taken place in Alberta after the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age.

It appeared from the study that there had been three climatic phases. In the first, ending around 9500 years ago, the climate was cooler than today's, and with considerably more precipitation. In the next two thousand years the climate was warmer than today's, with slightly more precipitation. From 7000 years ago onwards the climate cooled and dried to what it is today.

Although the study was not specifically of the Gull Lake region, fragments of Tamarack wood, collected in Bentley from deposits 3 metres below the present land surface and probably dating from the time of the first climatic phase, do suggest that the climate around Gull Lake went through these changes. Tamarack does not now grow around Bentley, implying that the early climate of the area was once more like that found much closer to the Rockies.

A study -- not yet complete at time of writing -- of the big game animals which have lived around Gull Lake during the last few thousand years appears to suggest that through most of that time buffalo were by far the most common big game animal, (with elk and mule deer also present) and that during that same period the vegetation of the region generally resembled the trees-and-grass mixture of the parklands, but with somewhat fewer trees.

These environmental reconstructions can be keyed in a general way to the three already-noted periods of prehistoric human history. The Early Prehistoric, ending around 5500 B.C., occupied all of the first climatic phase and about three-quarters of the second. The Middle Prehistoric, occupying the remainder of the second climatic phase and three-quarters of the third, ended around the time of Christ, two thousand years ago. The period covered by the big game study roughly coincides with the Middle and Late Prehistoric Periods and the third climatic phase.

So much for the kind of environment which prehistoric peoples found in the land around Gull Lake. It is time to consider the artifacts from the Gull Lake region: these, of course, provide almost all the hard physical evidence for the ancient presence of people. For our purpose the artifacts from the region can be placed in two main groups. In the first group are spear, dart and arrow points (collectively called "projectile points" by archaeologists). Because their styles changed with the passing of time they can show the ages when people lived in the area even though they tell little of how the people spent their daily lives. In the other group go artifacts like knives and scrapers which, although usually undateable, tell much more of how people lived.

The oldest evidence now known for human occupation of the Gull Lake region dates from the Early Prehistoric and is the only known artifact of that period from the vicinity of the lake. It is a projectile point of the type known as Agate Basin and was almost certainly used as a spear point, spears being the usual big game hunting weapons of the period. It probably dates between 7000 and 10,000 years ago, near the end of the first climatic phase, when the climate of the region was cooler and wetter. Unfortunately it was an isolated find and indicates only that someone had lived near the lake long before the Early Prehistoric Period had ended.

More can be said of occupation during the Middle Prehistoric. Examples of points used with the spear-thrower or atlatl, the characteristic hunting weapon, are common in the region. These include both Oxbow points from the beginning of the period and Pelican Lake points from its end. It is the writer's impression, however, that the most common Middle Prehistoric projectile points are those of the McKean - Hanna - Duncan Complex of the middle part of the period. The age of these is 2500 B.C. to around 500 B.C.

This relatively continuous occupation of the region appears to have carried on into the Late Prehistoric, when the bow became the characteristic hunting weapon. Besant points from the first part of the period (beginning around 200 A.D.) are sometimes found, as are the Late Plains types which replaced them around, or just before, the year 1000 A.D. Of these, Prairie Sidenotched types may be somewhat more common in the region than the very similar Plains Sidenotched.

The simple and often small Plains Triangular type of point is commonly accepted as being from the very end of the Late Prehistoric and from the already discussed Protohistoric, when the introduction of the horse (and certain other European imports) modified radically the ancient lifestyle. One point of this type from the regions is known to the writer.

When the Oxbow people occupied the region in the first part of the Middle Prehistoric, the climate was probably warmer and slightly wetter than today's; through successive occupations the climate had probably cooled and dried. Ground cover of the Gull Lake region over the same interval was, as noted, probably similar to the parkland of today.

The parkland of the Gull Lake region, like parkland elsewhere in Alberta, is a transitional zone between the Plains to the south and the forests to the north and west. Because of its position between grassland and forest it could, in prehistoric times, provide the people living in it with a greater variety of foods than could either of the other two zones. Although buffalo were extremely abundant most of the time, they were by no means the only source of food.

This raises obvious questions: How did the prehistoric peoples live their daily lives? What were the tools they used -- besides projectile points -- to gather and process those abundant natural resources?

For answers to those questions it is necessary to look at the other types of artifacts present (projectile points make up a surprisingly small proportion of the whole) and at the campsites, which are by far the biggest single category of archaeological site in the region.

A variety of stone artifact types are known from the Gull Lake region. The following are typical examples.

Simple, hand-held stone choppers were used for heavy work like rough butchering. Sometimes these are discovered near fragments of buffalo bone which show chop marks.

Stone knives were of two varieties. One, often shaped like a giant projectile point, was fitted with a handle. The other was a handleless type with a thin disc - or oval-shaped blade. Besides functioning as cutting tools they could also be used as scrapers and for several other purposes -- kind of a Stone Age equivalent of the modern multipurpose pocket knife.

Scrapers -- in a variety of shapes and sizes -- are common artifacts in the region as they are elsewhere on the prairies. These were used in several ways, but particularly for the preparation and finishing of hides and wooden articles. Some scrapers were fitted with wooden handles while others were held in the hand or between the fingers. Wood-working scrapers included the snub- nosed end scraper, flat on the bottom, rounded on top, which shaved the wood in the manner of a carpenter's plane, and the spokeshave, a specialized scraper with a curved, notch-like working edge used to smooth arrow-shafts, spear-shafts and similar devices.

A small number of flattened sandstone fragments, each pierced by a single hole drilled near an edge, have been found in the vicinity of Gull Lake and the Blindman River. Roughly triangular in shape and measuring around 15 centimetres a side, they have been interpreted as fishing-net weights.

Finally there is the familiar grooved stone maul. When fitted with a suitable handle, this heavy, rounded and grooved stone device could be used like a hammer for any purpose (food preparation, for example) which required pounding.

Other artifact types are also known from the region, but this brief survey gives an idea of the variety of stone tools made and used. Most were manufactured from kinds of stone common in the region, but a small number (with examples from all three periods) originated as far away as Wyoming and South Dakota. These, either as rough material or as finished tools, must have been brought to the area by barter from band to band and tribe to tribe.

Campsites are the most common archaeological sites in the region. These have not been studied in detail; comments on them must remain of a general nature.

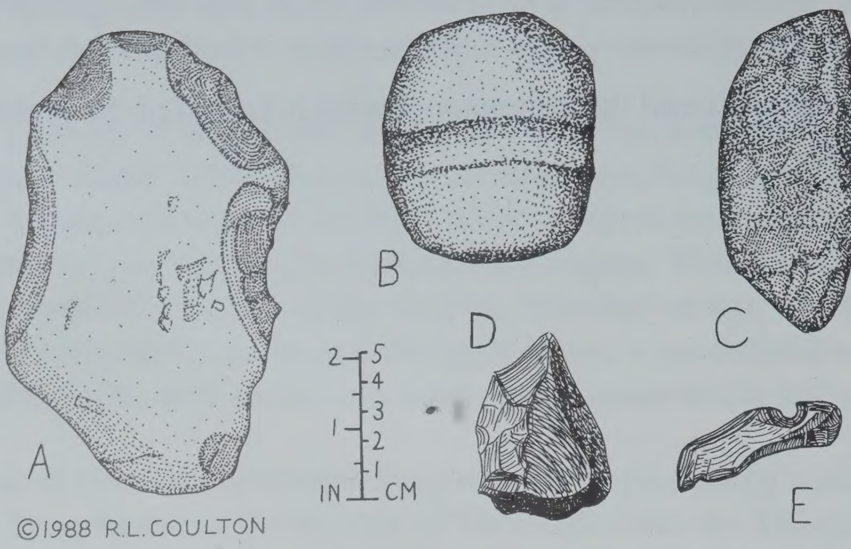
They vary greatly in size. Although some are very small, an example was recorded in 1975 which was at least 180,000 square feet in area. They may contain a wide variety of artifact types.

Example of teepee rings, built of loose stones and so called from their assumed purpose of holding down the edges of teepee covers, were apparently also once present in the region, but the writer knows of no existing examples.

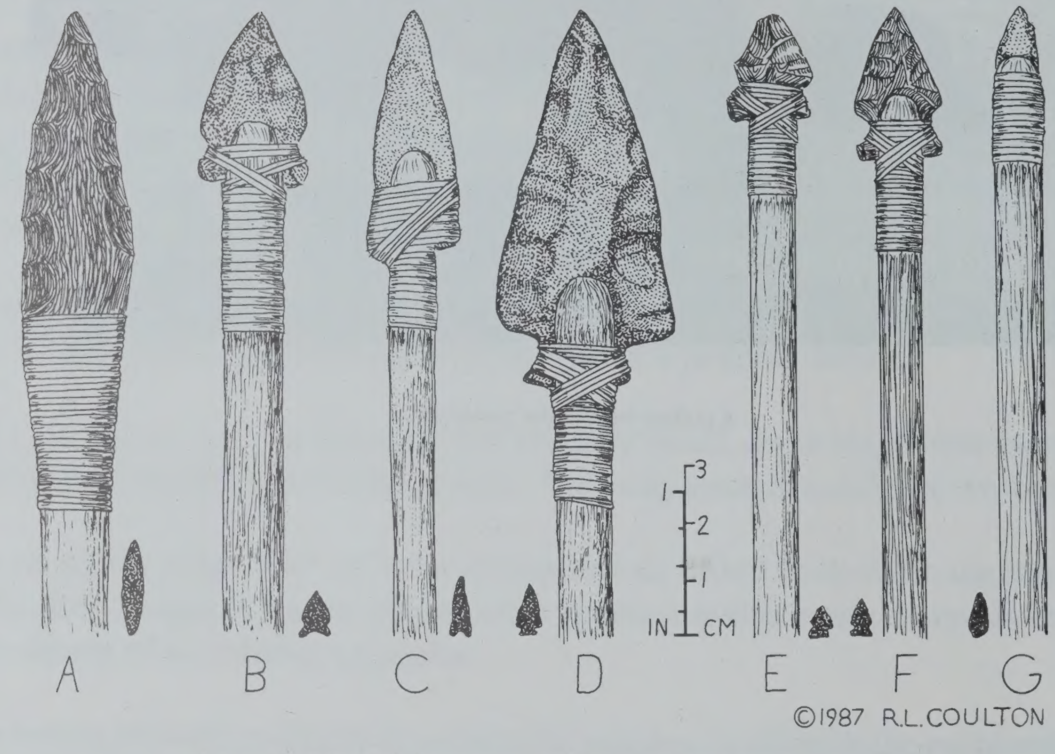
The wide variety of foods available to prehistoric peoples dwelling in the parklands has already been remarked upon. It may be added that the entire park belt was a prime wintering range for buffalo. In historic times (during the Protohistoric) bands of Indians wintered in the park belt and spent their summers ranging far out onto the plains. Although the possibility requires further studies before one can say with reasonable certainty, it would appear likely that the seasonal inhabitation of the parklands noted by early European visitors also occurred in the Prehistoric. Perhaps, then, at least some of the campsites of the Gull Lake region represent winter camps.

On that questioning note must end this summary of what is known of the prehistoric peoples of the Gull Lake region.

A buffalo herd in the parklands.



Prehistoric Stone Tools from the Gull Lake Region: A, Chopper. B, Grooved Maul. C, Biface Knife. D, Scraper. E, Spokeshave.



Typical Prehistoric Weapons of the Gull Lake Region, with approximate ages. Early Prehistoric: A. Agate Basin (8000 B.C.) Middle Prehistoric: B. Oxbow (3500 B.C.) C.McKean (2000 B.C.) D. Pelican Lake (500 B.C.) Late Prehistoric: E. Besant (500 A.D.) F. Prairie Sidenotched (1200 A.D.) G. Plains Triangular (1750 A.D.) A is a spear pont; B-D are dart points; E-G are arrow points. Reconstructions from specimens found in the Gull Lake Region.

Parkland in the Gull Lake Basin.

A Late Prehistoric winter camp in the southwest part of the Gull Lake basin.

CHAPTER THREE

THE COMING OF HISTORY

By Richard L. Coulton

Among settlers throughout Western North America there was, and is, an unspoken assumption so general as to be almost total. Put briefly, it is that the land being settled is a new land, and that new lands have no previous history. History is always something found elsewhere: in the East, perhaps, or in the United States or Europe.

The Indians were there before, of course, but their nebulous and nomadic existence made the new land no less "new" to the settler. This was true even when, as at Gull Lake, such peoples had lived in the region for thousands of years (and such a timespan for this region is by no means remarkable). One asks, can their long existence in the region be considered history?

No, for history as an artifact is a recorded thing. It does not exist until written down. Though the Indians lived around Gull Lake for many thousands of years theirs was a primitive existence -- primitive not in the sense that it was crude and unskilled, but in that they made their lives fit the land instead of changing the land to fit their lives -- and they wrote nothing. They made and left no history. Except for the few generations of the Protohistoric they lived in Prehistory, the age before history came to Gull Lake.

When speaking of such matters there is a moment in time which archaeologists call "Contact". By that they mean the date on which, in the region being discussed, Prehistoric Indians first met Europeans. It is an important moment in the story of any region for, even if the visitor did no more than look and leave, his notes and records, guiding others, meant inevitable change later. The history of a region can quite properly be considered to begin with that moment.

In the story of the Gull Lake region there is an interval between Contact and the first arrival of settlers. In truth, and however it might have seemed to those first settlers, there is in all such stories no time of newness, for all such events stand rooted firmly on what has gone before. Theirs was not a new land, nor even a beginning in it, but another stage in a long story. For all the changes they brought to the land, history had come to Gull Lake long before they did.

What follows is a brief account of how it came.

* * * * * *

The names of the first white visitors to Gull Lake's shores are not now known. Early in 1755 Anthony Henday of the Hudson's Bay Company crossed the Blindman River at the beginning of the return journey to Hudson Bay following his history-making trek across the "Muscuty Plains", as he called the Canadian prairies. Although he almost certainly passed close to the

Gull Lake country, his journal appears to make no mention of the lake. However, at the time of his journey, the lake would have been frozen and perhaps for that reason had nothing to offer his Cree companions.

In 1799, 44 years later, the North West Company built Fort Rocky Mountain House on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River some 70 kilometres west of the Gull Lake country. (The rival Hudson's Bay Company immediately built a post -- Acton House -- nearby). Between the years 1800 and 1812 Fort Rocky Mountain House served as a base for exploration by the fur-trade geographer David Thompson, who included both Gull Lake (which he called "Long Lake") and the Blindman ("Wolf") River on his great map of the northwest, which he completed in 1814. These earlier names are of interest; the Arrowsmith map of 1859 is the first to use the present name of Gull Lake. The Cree called it kiaskus; the Stoney (Assiniboine), pi-cha-tto-amna.

The building of Fort Rocky Mountain House had a pronounced effect upon the history of Gull Lake. Although the builders had reached the Rocky Mountain House site by ascending the North Saskatchewan River from Fort Edmonton, and this river remained the principal route until the end of fur-trade days, overland routes were also soon established southwest from Fort Edmonton, which passed between the northwest shore of Gull Lake and where Rimbey now stands, and west from the Red Deer River and the plains, passing close along Gull Lake's southern shore to cross the Blindman south of the present Village of Bentley. The "Mountain House Trail", these were called, or "The Wolf Track". The trails are out there yet, their traces still faintly visible, like old scars across the memory of time. In the hills beyond the Blindman the branches meet, and together their wandering ruts crawl westward across the countryside to the old "Mountain House".

These trails, or at least parts of them, may have begun as generalized routes used by Indians moving seasonally between the forests and the plains -- possibly well back in the Prehistoric. In fur-trade days, particularly after the introduction of Red River carts, they became much more defined. Specific routes past lakes like Gull Lake, in which water levels have fluctuated widely through the years, must have varied, however, for a section of trail usable when the lake is down could well be flooded in years of high water.

However the trails began, the first fur-traders to use them must count among the earliest -- if not the earliest -- white travellers to see Gull Lake. From their day onwards more would pass regularly, including many men with names now famous in the history of the Canadian West. Some mentioned the lake in their journals, giving fascinating glimpses of how Gull Lake appeared to the traveller of more than a century ago. Some aspects of the scene sound familiar to us, others do not.

Listen to Nor'Wester Alexander Henry the Younger as he travels toward the Mountain House on October 2, 1810. At mid-day he is in the country north of Lacombe: "Our road here became crooked, winding among small plains and pieces of thick woods, mostly aspen." By two o'clock the party has reached the lake and begun to pass along its eastern end (a lower water level may have given the lake a somewhat different shape). Here they find a lame horse they surmise to have been left by the Sarcees, and Henry, after estimating the size of the lake to be around nine miles long and from one to two wide, paints a familiar scene: "... with a low, sandy beach along which we passed, where the W. wind made a swell break at our feet. The water is very clear." There have, however, been changes in the surrounding countryside since 1810. "Buffalo have been numerous here lately," he notes, "but the Indians have driven them off. Our route along this lake lay through a beautiful plain of short grass, adjoining the sandy beach."

Most travellers on the trails past Gull Lake had connections with the fur-trade. Among the best known of these was the Hudson's Bay Company's George Simpson, governor of Rupert's Land following the 1821 merger with the North West Company. Simpson sometimes made use of the overland trails to the Mountain House during his tours of inspection of the Company's vast territories.

Beginning in the 1840's, travellers without direct connections with the fur-trade began also to use the trails. Early missionaries, among them Methodist Robert Rundle and Roman Catholic Father de Smet, made occasional visits to the Mountain House. In 1858 the explorations of Dr. James Hector, geologist with the Palliser Expedition, brought him through the Gull Lake country.

In the years following the building of Fort Rocky Mountain House the level of Gull Lake had dropped steadily. Not long before Hector's visit the lake had already become so low as to allow summer crossings along a gravel ridge between McLaurin's Beach and the north side of Outlet Bay. The lake continued to drop after Hector's visit with the ridge becoming fully exposed by the summer of 1860, turning the lake into what was virtually a chain of lakes and providing a convenient shortcut for summer travellers.

George Simpson, Governor of Rupertsland for the H.B.C.

Late on December 3, 1870, there passed westward along the trail south of Aspen Beach a traveller who made no comments about the level of the lake but whose comments on other matters would strongly influence the future direction of prairie history. He was Lieutenant William Francis Butler of the British Army, on his way to the "Mountain House" as part of his fact-finding expedition through the (then) North West Territories. His journey would result in both a report and a first-rate travel book. His report led to the founding of the North West Mounted Police. In his book, The Great Lone Land, the occasion is recounted:

"It was near sunset," he writes, "when we rode by the lonely shores of the Gull Lake, whose frozen surface stretched beyond the horizon to the north. Before us ... lay the abrupt line of the Three Medicine Hills, from whose gorges the first view of ... the Rocky Mountains was destined to burst upon my sight."

Lieutenant William Francis Butler.

Not however until the following day would he see the Rockies, for that night they camped by the bank of the "Pas-co-pee, or Blindman's River." So close are the North and South Saskatchewan River systems in this region, he observed, that while the water for the midday meal came from the Battle River which drains into the North Saskatchewan, that for the evening was taken from a stream draining, via the Red Deer River, into the South Saskatchewan. It is an observation which sums up nicely a region whose story has often been an interplay between two forces.

* * * * * *

The Gull Lake country had now become a region known to travellers -- however brief their visits -- with a past lived, remembered, and sometimes written down. Those travellers had brought to the lake a history which had not existed in all the thousands of years of human occupation that had gone before.

But if the Gull Lake country now had a history it still showed no noticeable change, except for the ever-enlarging ruts of the Mountain House Trail. Away from the trails the country remained unchanged with its trees and grass, its buffalo and elk, its great canopy of shining sky. The country must have seemed as timeless as the lake itself where ripples, murmuring swells and riotous waves followed winter ice season by changing season. But more profound transitions were on the wind.

These changes were foreseen by the Methodist missionaries George McDougall and his son John three years after Butler's journey. They were travelling up the Blindman Valley, returning to their Pigeon Lake mission from southern Alberta. As they rode George suddenly turned to his son. "You and I alone today," he said, "but we are the forerunners of the millions who are coming." Even as he spoke the North West Mounted Police were establishing themselves in the West.

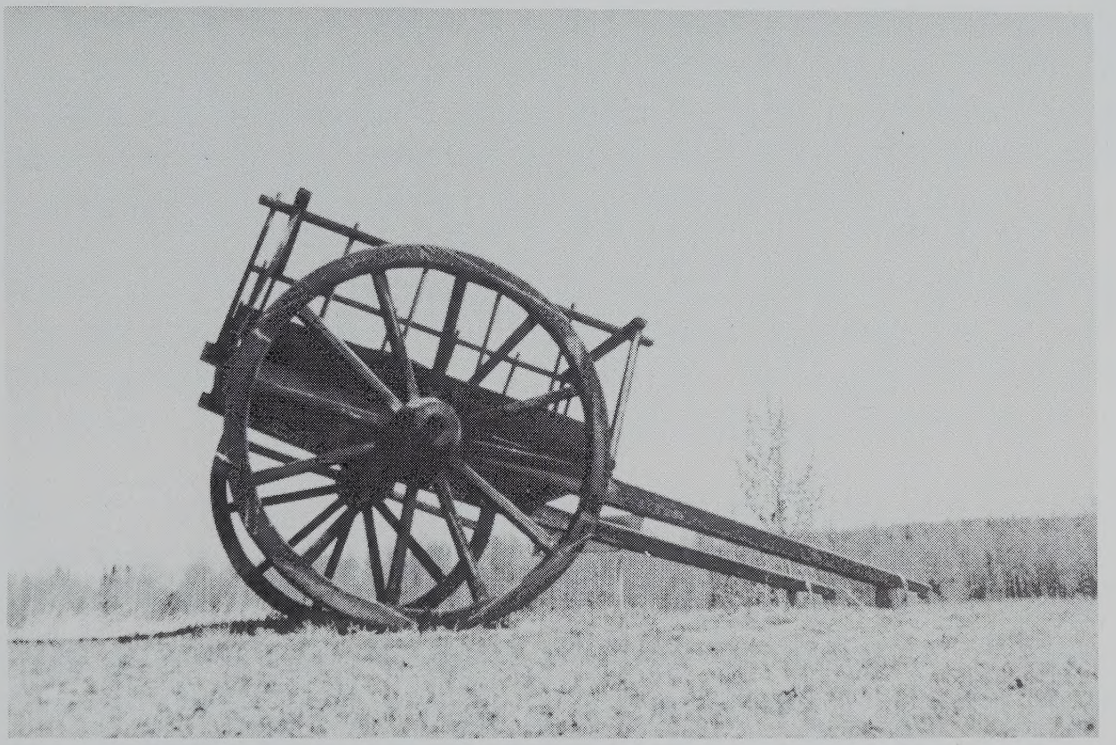
The Mounted Police played only a small part in the Gull Lake story (by 1888 the two nearest posts were at Red Deer and at the Peace Hills near Wetaskiwin) but changes came fast during the force's first twenty years in the West. The great herds of buffalo vanished. The Indians settled on reserves. Fort Rocky Mountain House was abandoned, and few indeed were those who ventured into the Gull Lake country on the old trails -- ventured into the country at all. The first chapter of Gull Lake history drew to a close.

On July 27, 1891, not far to the east of Gull Lake, the first through train of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway (soon to come under CPR control) rolled north over newly-laid track. The smoke that rose high above the mixed train's labouring locomotive signalled the beginning of another chapter in Gull Lake history, and a change from which there could be no turning back.

Until now all visitors to Gull Lake had been travellers and nomads, but a survey map drawn in the summer of 1893 (by McAree) shows something new. On the south shore, where the township line (now followed by Number 12 Highway) intersects the lake shore, in the vicinity of the Village of Gull Lake's public beach, the map shows a log cabin belonging to one George Gale Mobley (later a carpenter in Lacombe).

He is Gull Lake's first known settler.

The Mountain House Trail as it appears today south of Gull Lake.



A Red River cart - - The "Wonder of the plains." These carts, built totally without metal, were used extensively on the Mountain House Trail.

INITIAL YEARS

CHAPTER FOUR

EARLY DEVELOPERS

By Robert S. Blackett

In 1891, a few years before the first land in the Village area was taken up, the Alberta District of the Northwest Territories had a non-Indian population of less than 18,000 people. By 1901 it was 73,000 and in 1906, the year after Alberta became a province, it was some 185,000 people. There had been a large influx of people to Alberta in the first decade or so of the present century such as homesteaders, merchants, lawyers, doctors, farmers and the like from the British Isles, Europe and the United States.

In the year after the Village was incorporated, 1913, Alberta had grown to 470,000. Opportunities for a new life on the Western prairies abounded and were well advertised by governments and the railways which, by then, had access. The most attractive resource of all was land, and it is to the credit of men like Wiese, Mobley, Martin and Scott that they seized upon opportunity and came to Gull Lake to settle. They, and many others who must have included developers from afar, promoters, brokers, local, provincial and federal government authorities, had the foresight to see the marvelous potential of Gull Lake.

The timing was right since not only were people who had been accustomed to a vacation spot flocking into central Alberta, but the climate cooperated with a return to 'normal' moisture conditions. The lake had settled down to a moderately high level by 1904 with perhaps 50 or so feet of clean sandy beach and nice pure water. And it stayed that way well into the teens.

Settlers (some of whom later became land developers) and the Hudson Bay Company had taken up various key pieces of land, parts of which became the many subdivisions within the future Summer Village of Gull Lake. There were six quarter sections of particular interest.

> The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay (the HBCo.) received a grant from the Crown of Fractional South Half Section 26 - Township 40 - Range - 28 West of 4th Meridian on September 16, 1895, at the easterly end of the village area. George Gale Mobley, Farmer, of Lacombe received a Dominion Land Grant (D.L.G.) for the NE/4-22-40-28 W4M on May 7, 1897 (excepting the waters of Gull Lake). This piece was transferred by Certificate of Title to William Wiese on March 20, 1900. Mr. Wiese was granted (D.L.G.) the NE/4 W4M on March 13, 1901 and was granted (D.L.G.)

the SW/4-22-40-28W4M on March 17, 1904 at the westerly end of the future village area. Arthur Edward Martin of Wardner, Idaho, Farmer, was granted (D.L.G.) a portion of the NW/4-22-40-28W4M (excepting the waters of Gull Lake) on July 18, 1904. Mr. Martin transferred his title to Robert J. Scott, Margaret E. Garland and Henry M. Trimble on January 16, 1907. These people were referred to as 'a Gentleman', 'a Widow' and 'an Advocate' on the title. G.G. Mobley acquired, in the name of his wife Anne Mobley, the Frac. S/2-26-40-28W4M from the HBCo. on May 21, 1906. Thus the first developers along the beach were in place.

J. McAree's survey map of 1893 identifies Mr. Mobley's log cabin, very likely the first along the lake shore, at the point where the township line (an extension of Highway 12) intersects the lake.

William Wiese had sold off four small parcels near the northeast corner of NE/4-22-40-28. One parcel, 100 feet by 150 feet, went to a Mr. McLeod on June 3, 1901; another 1/3 acre just west of the present Village Hall to H.B. Howell, a Lacombe druggist, on July 20, 1901 who built the Pioneer Cottage; and two other transfers are recorded on May 18, 1902 and in September 1904. These pieces are all in the vicinity of the present day Village Hall and comprise the two developments known as 5320 KS and 3689 KS at Municipal 5 and 7, 19 to 25 Lakeview Avenue and 15 to 25 Stuart Avenue. It's likely the old Lakeview Hotel was situated on one of them.

The first large scale development by Wiese was Plan XXXIII registered on July 20, 1905 comprising Municipal addresses 1 to 15 and 29 to 115 Lakeview Ave., some 47 lots today. The earliest cottages along the beach were more than likely built on some of these lots.

It is no wonder that with Mr. Wiese's land holdings and developments the area was first known as Wieseville. He operated the Wieseville Post Office, store, telephone exchange and the Lakeview Hotel from 1905 probably until he sold all his interests in 1912. The name Aspen Beach came into being in 1914.

The next development was Plan LXXVII, registered on May 21, 1906 as Aspern (sometimes with the 'r' crossed out) by G.G. Mobley, now known as a Contractor. This plan comprises today's 1 to 119 Oliver Avenue, some 72 lots. 31 lots were sold in 1906, 11 in the 1907 to 1910 period, and 26 in the 1911 to 1920 period such that the development was staggered in time and the earliest cottages were no doubt started in 1906.

Then came Plan 1900R on March 21, 1907, the Eureka Resort, consisting of today's Municipal 1 to 73 Premier Avenue. This would have been a project of Scott, Garland and Trimble. The balance of the Frac. NW/4-22-40-28 and SW/4-22-40-28 wound up in R.J. Scott's hands on January 30, 1909. It wasn't until July 23, 1923 that Mr. Scott had Plan 2526CL registered creating Municipal 75 to 123 Premier Ave.; and on December 22, 1931 he registered Plan 4969EO which created lots at 4, 8 and 10 Premier on the south side of the road. Lot 10 is the 16.5 acre undeveloped space in this area.

Plan 2352S was created on August 4, 1907 by Mr. Wiese containing seven lots, six of which are now the Provincial Government Group Camp grounds at the east end of Lakeview Ave.

Other land activity followed almost immediately upon the establishment of the major subdivisions. William Wiese appears to have sold the balance of his lands in SW/4-22 in 1908, the NE/4-22 in 1912 and the NW/4-23 also in 1912. Mobley sold the balance of Frac. S half-26 to George Skinner on December 6, 1906, who later sold to John Hug on December 16, 1916. Wiese's sales in 1912 were to an interesting Edmonton group, William N. Sheppard, Ernest Farncomb and James Gallagher. These people are described as 'a Capitalist', 'an Engineer' and 'a Broker' on their title. The NW/4-23 eventually wound up in the Jenkins family in 1929. Of course the Village of Gull Lake came into being on March 25, 1913.

There are at least eight other registered plans within the Village comprising from one to three lots each, which came along at later dates. One of them, however, Plan 3711TR, includes the Jenkin's home and Patton's Place and no doubt was established long ago. Two other developments are recent and consist of lots along Cyrene Close, Cyrene Crescent, Spruce Close and Wildrose Close.

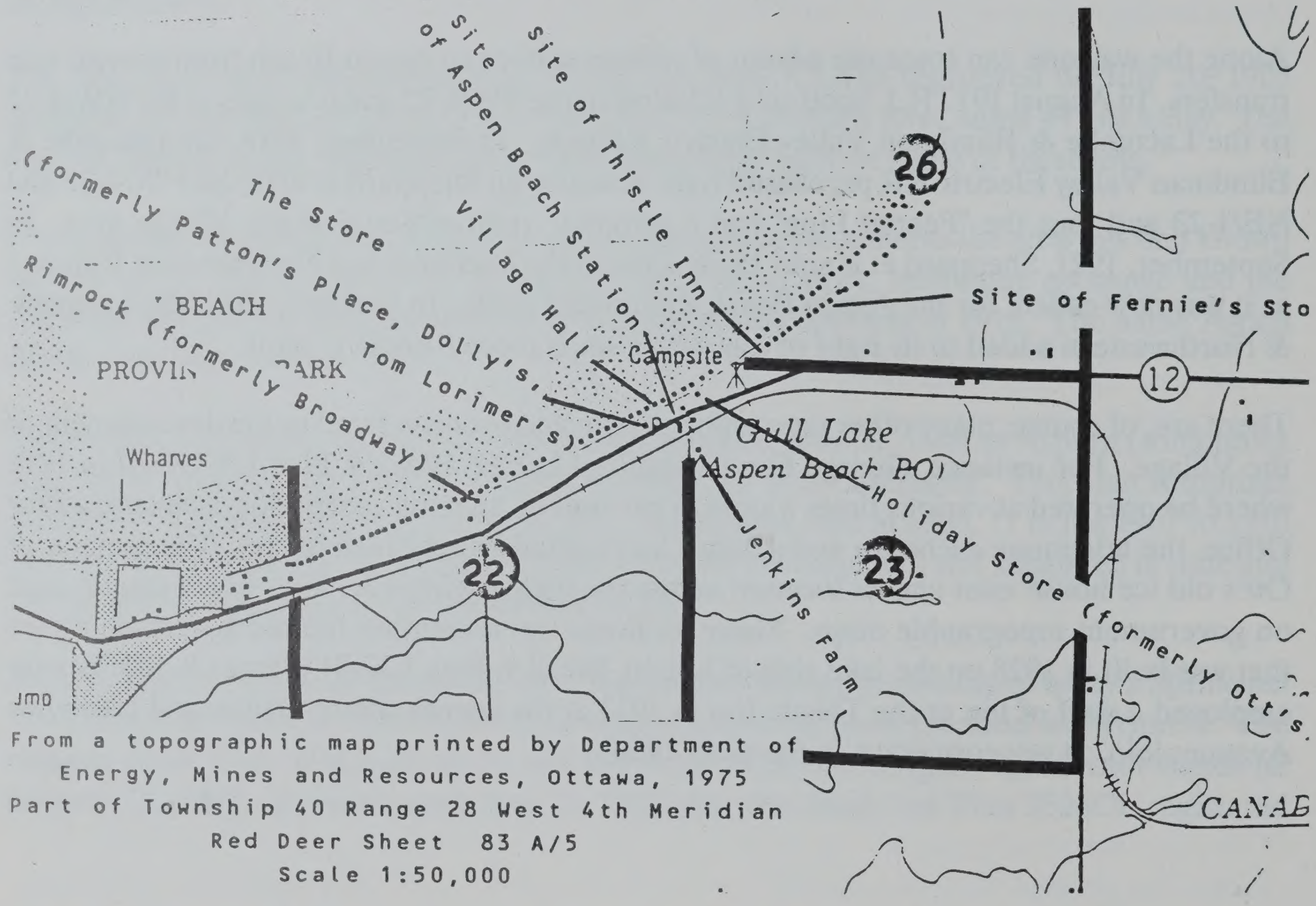
Along the way one can trace the advent of railway service to Aspen Beach from several title transfers. In August 1917 R.J. Scott sold 3.2 acres in the SW/4-22 and one acre in the NW/4-22 to the Lacombe & Blindman Valley Electric Railway. In December, 1918, the Lacombe & Blindman Valley Electric RR purchased right of way from Sheppard et al in the NW/4-22 and NE/4-23 and thus the "Peanut Line" had a complete right of way past the Village area. In September, 1921, Sheppard et al sold 15.76 acres to the Lacombe and Northwestern Railway, as it was now called, for the Aspen Beach station and yards. In October, 1921, the Lacombe & Northwestern added to its right of way with a small piece from R.J. Scott.

There are, of course, many other interesting people and events related to the development of the Village. For instance, George Fernie acquired Lot 12, Block 4, Plan LXXXVII in 1912 where he operated at various times a store, a gas station, an ice cream parlor, a bakery, a Post Office, the telephone exchange and a dance hall (called Tain't Much today). The remains of Ott's old ice house exist and its location across the highway from Jenkin's home can be seen on government topographic maps. Many residents can remember the old government pier that was built in 1928 on the lake side of Lot 10, Block 4, Plan LXVII. James P. McPherson employed a staff of ten at the Thistle Inn in 1913 at the corner where Oliver and Lakeview Avenues join. It was torn down in the early 1950's.

Improved transportation systems were built during the first decade of this century and roads were carved out of the land grants mentioned earlier in this piece. The Calgary and Edmonton Railway was completed by August, 1891, facilitating travel between those cities and Lacombe. A railway to Aspen Beach was in operation by 1918/19. Automobiles were introduced into the province by 1903. However, early transportation to Gull Lake was, by 1988 standards, lengthy and tiresome.

For example, the Edmonton Bulletin of March 2, 1906 in reporting on the first recorded car trip between Edmonton and Calgary stated 'the party left Edmonton on Saturday morning at ten and arrived in Calgary at seven on Sunday evening, staying in Red Deer over Saturday night. From Lacombe to Red Deer, 20 miles, the car made the trip in 34 minutes. During the trip, 20 gallons of gasoline were used and one gallon of lubrication oil.' Today we'd probably burn a third of the gasoline, virtually no oil and the trip might be 3 1/2 hours.

At times of heavy traffic, however, the 20 miles between Lacombe and Red Deer on Highway 2A seems like a 34 minute trip. The drive from Lacombe to the lake in the early days was also tedious. In fact, horse drawn coaches and wagons were used for a while. Nevertheless the people came and obviously loved the place. Grandchildren, and younger, of some of the first cottagers who bought property from Wiese and Mobley still come to Gull Lake. Although it was bound to be developed as a major resort area sooner or later, we in 1988 owe a debt of thanks for the foresight of the players from the 1900-1910 era.



From a topographic map printed by Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, 1975
Part of Township 40 Range 28 West 4th Meridian
Red Deer Sheet 83 A/5
Scale 1:50,000

CHAPTER FIVE

WIESEVILLE "A STOPPING PLACE"

By Catherine Moriarty

One of the first families to settle in the area which was later to become known as Aspen Beach came to Alberta from Nebraska about 1898. William Wiese, his wife Mary, and their six children arrived in Lacombe by train in March and Mr. J. Ebeling Sr. took them by team and sleigh to a log cabin at Gull Lake where later on the Jenkins family lived for so many years on what is known as Wiese Avenue today. William Wiese was an entrepeneur who saw great possibilities in his adopted province. He immediately set to work to make his log cabin comfortable, plastering the inside and re-siding the outside. He had farmed back in Nebraska and when he came to Alberta he purchased a few pigs and cows and planted some crops but was not content to settle down as a farmer.

His next enterprise was to build a boathouse and rent out boats to families who came from Lacombe to spend the day fishing and relaxing. There were so many fish in the lake that many times William and his sons loaded up his wagon with suckers to feed the pigs. There was a lumber mill operating near by and William spent his first winter chopping wood and hauling it to Lacombe for sale.

Farmers and business men often travelled by his place westward from Lacombe along the old dirt trail toward Bentley and many times he and his sons were called upon to pull a stranded traveller out of the mud in the spring or a snow filled ditch in wintertime. He decided to open a "stopping place" for travellers where his wife offered meals which she sold for 25 cents. Soon the family was operating a small store and livery stable.

He had acquired property since his arrival and in 1902 he sold his first lot to a Mr. Howell of Lacombe. The north, south train route ran through Lacombe and people were now coming from as far away as Calgary and Edmonton to the little community which was known as Wieseville, attracted by the stories they had heard about the beautiful lake. More people bought lots and put up small cabins. Others tented and William and his sons spent many hours transporting guests between Lacombe and Wieseville.

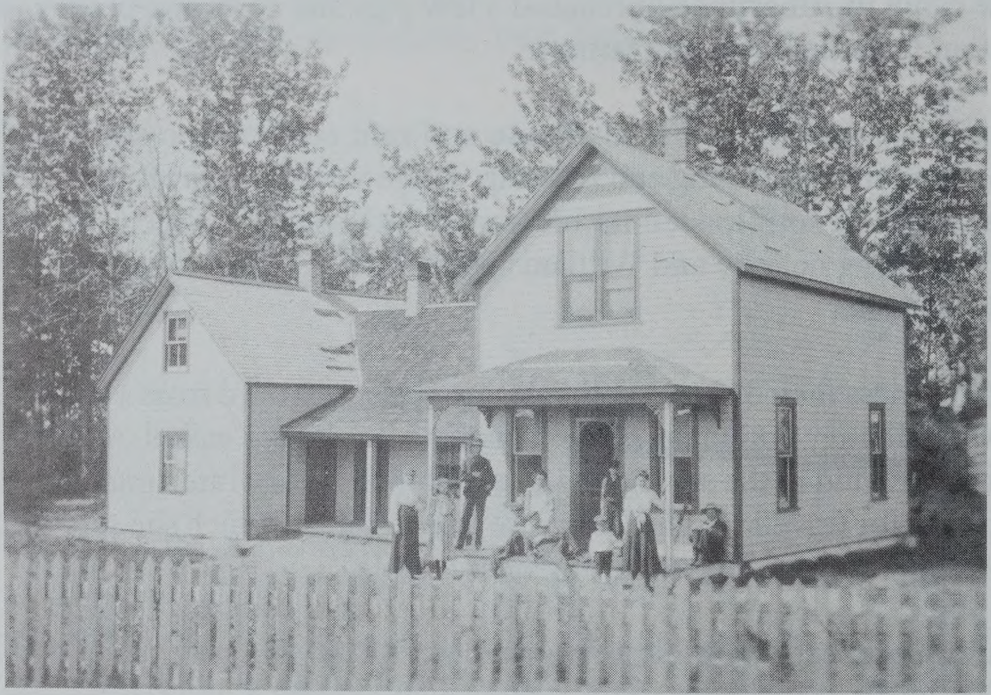
In 1905 Alberta became a province, so William added a Post Office to his store and thriving restaurant. During the summer, his wife made bread and butter which she sold to the cottagers and campers along with milk from their cows which her children carried in cans to the few cottagers who ladled out what they wanted. Next the government installed a telephone system and one of the daughters, Linda, was the "hello" girl.

By 1908 William had built a thirteen room hotel and hired a Chinese immigrant as cook. The family had many a chuckle over the cook's efforts with the English language for he persisted in referring to rice as "lice". This was most disturbing to Mary for she managed a well run establishment. The Wiese's remained in the district until 1913 at which time William sold his hotel and business and moved to Carstairs.

In 1914 Canada joined the British Commonwealth in its war against Germany and many people felt the name of the community was not suitable. In 1917 Wieseville was officially changed to Aspen Beach.

Source: Article by Linda Wiese Marshall-Wagon Trails - p. 654

Guide To Historic Sites Of Gull Lake-Region Of Alberta-Richard Colton-1975 (Bentley)



1906. Wiese home and family.

Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Wiese, Eva, Linda, Lulu, Ralph, Carl, Bill, Roy, and Lulu's husband Bert Thorpe.

CHAPTER SIX

CUMMINGS MILL

By: Richard L. Coulton

Lumber was one of the biggest industries in the Gull Lake basin during the earliest years of settlement, and often provided an added source of income for struggling homesteaders.

In the days of the buffalo, the trees of the parklands had been prevented from taking over the land entirely by the regular passage of the great herds. With the buffalo gone, the trees spread rapidly. The Indian and fur-trader found parkland around Gull Lake; the settler found heavy forest.

Much of that forest had to be cleared before farming could begin. Farms need lumber. A sawmill has obvious potential in such a situation, and it was not long before several were operating in the general region of Gull Lake. Of these the biggest and best- known in the Gull Lake basin itself was the Cummings Mill.

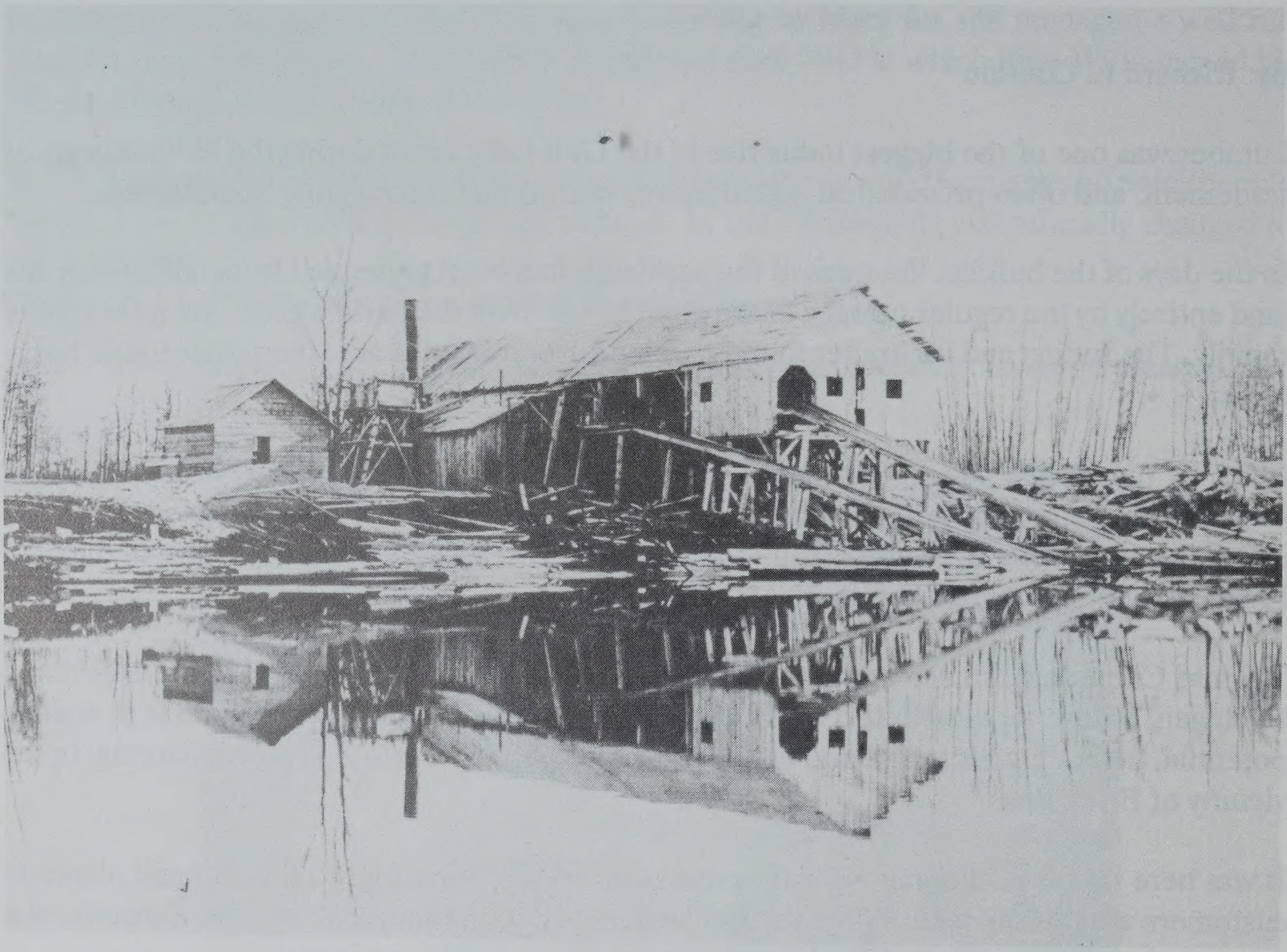
Thomas Cummings, an accountant in his native Ireland, had immigrated to Ontario, then to Michigan, before moving to the Gull Lake country with his family in 1898. Quick to see the potential, he bought a sawmill and established it well up the western shore, apparently in the vicinity of Birch Bay.

It was here that the schooner *Kangaroo* was built to help move logs to the mill and planks to customers around the lake. When the mill was moved to the southeast corner, *Kangaroo* was converted to steam and continued to provide lake transportation for it.

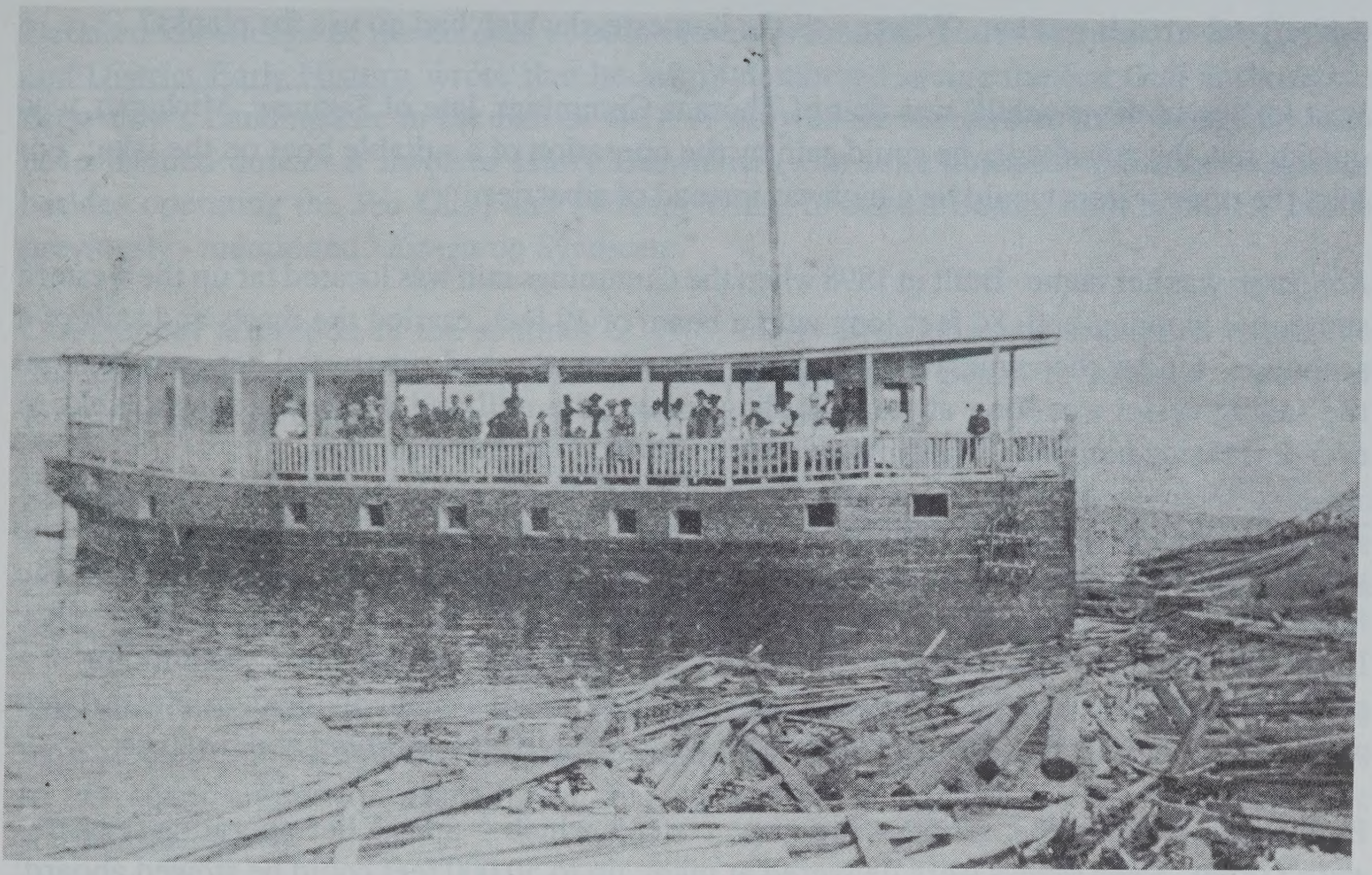
Thomas Cummings's three sons, George, Bill and Tom Jr., all worked in the sawmill operation which came to reach considerable size. At its peak, the mill employed 25 to 30 men in logging, sawmilling and hauling, with additional temporary workers put on the payroll as needed during especially busy times, and a lumber yard in Lacombe was also operated. Many of the early buildings of the Lacombe district and the Gull Lake region were constructed withCummings lumber.

The Cummings Mill continued to operate in the Gull Lake basin until around 1908, when most of the local forest had been cleared. The mill was then moved to the country west of Leedale, some distance west of Gull Lake, where it continued to operate until around 1915.

The earliest years of the settlement of the Gull Lake basin ran their course in a natural and industrial environment far different from that found over much of the region today, and the task of those early settlers is long over. Cummings Mill was a notable part of that environment.



Cumming's saw mill near Sucker Ditch on Gull Lake about 1890.

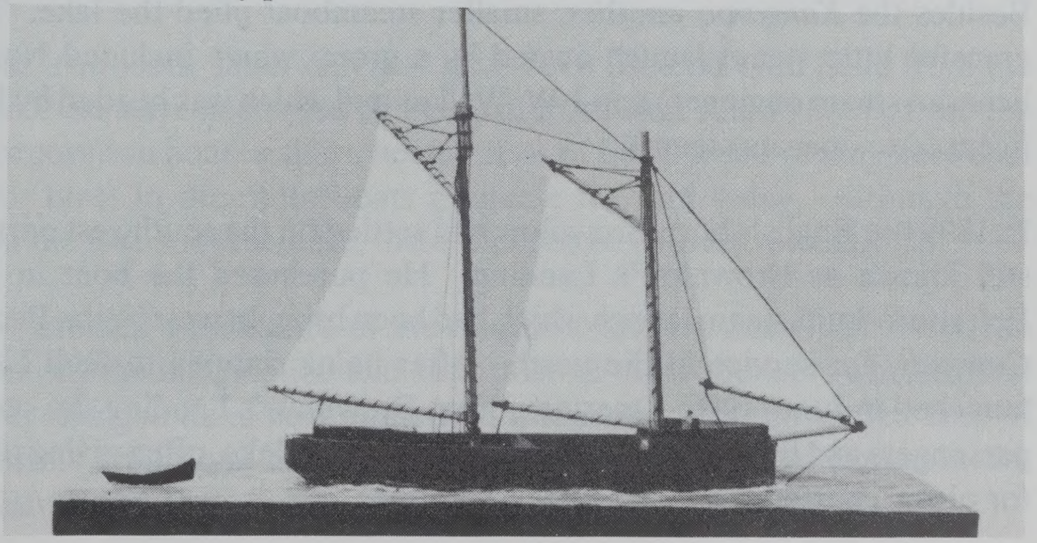


Cumming's boat on Gull Lake about 1901. Built to tow logs it also served as a pleasure craft.

A MARINE HISTORY OF GULL LAKE

By Richard L. Coulton

Many people interested in Western Canadian history are aware of the steamboats which once plied prairie rivers. Few realize that many prairie lakes had their own steamboats. Gull Lake had those and also, for two years before its age of steam, was plied by a sailing ship.



Model showing the probable appearance of the Kangaroo while rigged as a schooner during the first two years of her career, 1898-1899

Gull Lake was surrounded by dense forests when the homesteaders first came to settle near its shores in the mid-1890's. Sawmills soon followed, for here was both a bounty of timber and a ready market. Where was the homestead which had no use for planks?

Best known of the sawmills was that of Thomas Cummings, late of Saginaw, Michigan, who quickly saw the advantages he could gain by the operation of a suitable boat on the lake: For him, the open waters would be a highway instead of a barrier.

Kangaroo was her name. Built in 1898 when the Cummings mill was located far up the western shore, her wooden hull, 84 feet long with a beam of 19 feet, carried the masts and sails of a schooner. Under the command of Captain Snowden, who had supervised her construction, the sailing vessel was soon at work hauling logs to the mill and delivering sawn planks to ever-increasing numbers of homesteads which dotted Gull Lake's shores.

The year 1900 marked the beginning of the steamboat era. Cummings moved his mill to the south-east shore that year and, with the aid of a newly-formed syndicate, converted the *Kangaroo* to steam power. The installed engine burned wood and powered a screw propellor. In addition, the conversion included removal of the mainmast and bowsprit, the building of a pilothouse over the wheel (which was located for'ard) and of a cabin on the deck aft (through which protruded the funnel). A light awning deck covered all but funnel and foremast.

Bunks were fitted in the cabin for the crew to sleep, which -- during her operating season -- wasn't often. Sawn planks were delivered at night; up to 50,000 feet could be stowed aboard, with any additional being loaded on a towed raft. On most days booms of logs were towed to the mill. *Kangaroo* was now commanded by George Cummings (son of Thomas), and the crew normally consisted of just three or four men: pilot, engineer, fireman, and perhaps a deckhand or two.

Kangaroo did not pass all her days (and nights) in such labour. When business was slack, passengers were taken aboard at several points along the east side of the lake for excursions and dances, at which, it is said, many a romance blossomed.

Besides the *Kangaroo* another, smaller steamboat plied the lake. This was the *Sea Gull,* a graceful little steam launch owned by a group which included Norman Ross (the vessel's licensed steam engineer) and J.W. Walker and which was headed by Harry A. Brownlow (also licensed to operate steam).

In 1899 the English-born Brownlow had settled on the southwest part of Gull Lake in the area still known as Brownlow's Landing. He purchased the boat in Edmonton -- a 32 foot Peterboro-built steam launch which had been brought west by the Peace River Transportation Company for service in the north. After being shipped to Gull Lake, she was named and launched in June, 1900. Operating from Brownlow's Landing she served as a packet carrying passengers and light freight between points on the lake, often giving pleasure tours and serving for picnic charters.

Detailed knowledge of the careers of both vessels is limited. Harry Hansen, in the Bentley and District Early History, wrote that he last remembered seeing the *Sea Gull* anchored at Brownlow's Landing late in the Fall of 1911. A story of the *Kangaroo's* final voyage has also been handed down. It involves Harry Brownlow (who sometimes served as her engineer besides operating the *Sea Gull*) and William Wiese of Aspen Beach, both members of the previously - mentioned "*Kangaroo* Syndicate."

One Sunday afternoon in the summer of 1909, Harry Brownlow was scheduled to sail the *Kangaroo* from moorage at Brownlow's Landing to Aspen Beach to take on a party of vacationers for an excursion arranged by William Wiese.

Brownlow was late boarding her, and found her short of firewood. He sailed as soon as steam was up, hoping to take on more wood at Aspen Beach. Wiese, however, was so upset at the vessel's late arrival that the shortage of fuel wasn't mentioned. *Kangaroo* sailed as soon as the passengers had boarded.

The excursion did not prove as pleasant as anticipated. Well up the lake *Kangaroo* encountered a storm, and soon the last of her firewood had been burned. The crew attempted to tow her to shore with a small boat, and she was eventually beached late at night on the southeast shore.

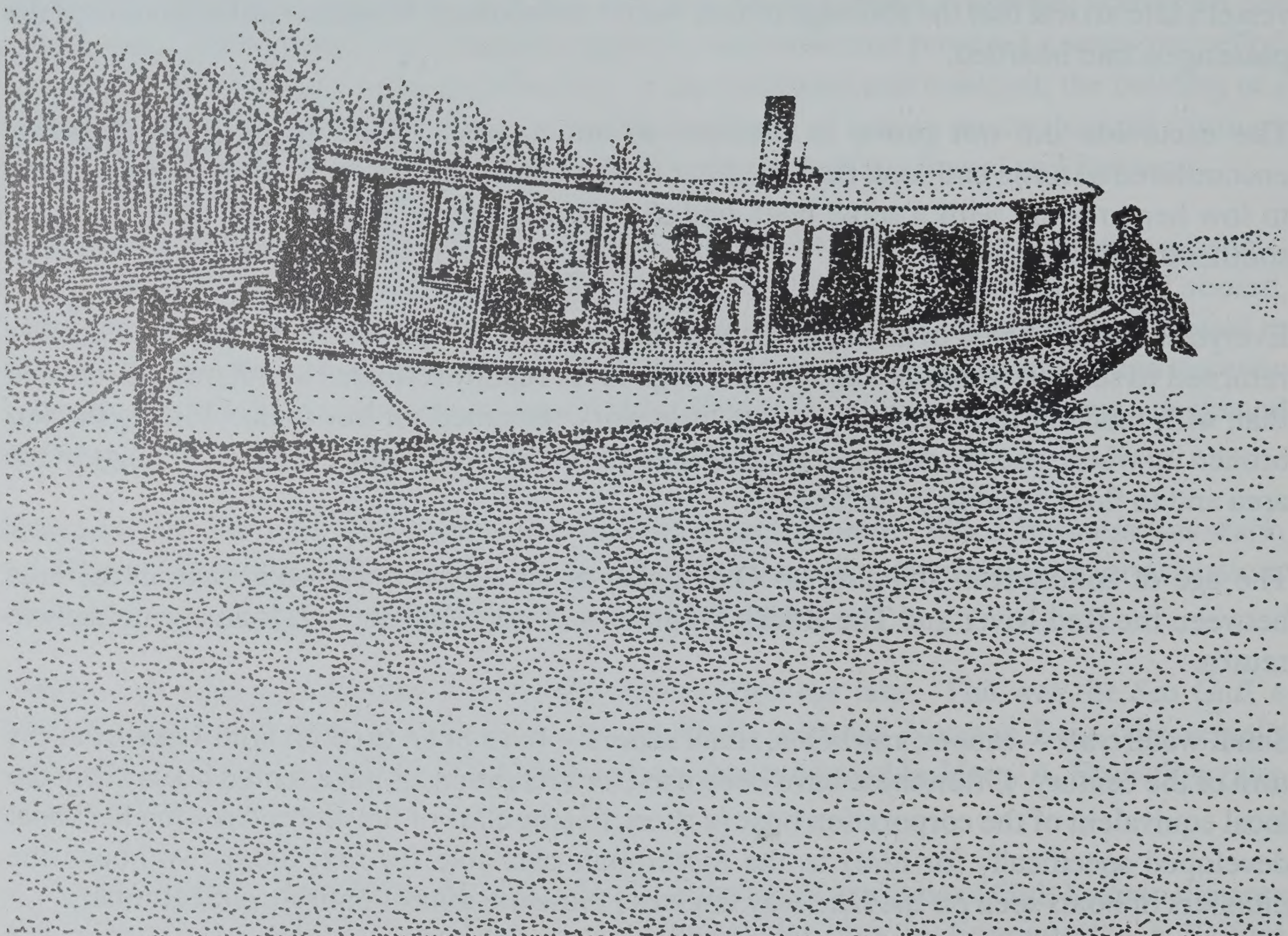
Everyone walked home in an angry mood. *Kangaroo* was simply left on the beach and never returned to service. Perhaps she was too large to be readily refloated and it may be relevant that, with much of the forest now gone, little work remained for her to do. Finally she was broken up where she lay, with material salvaged from her hull being used for buildings in the area and to floor a stable in Lacombe.

The age of commercial shipping on Gull Lake, as on almost every other lake in the land between the Red River and The Rocky Mountains, is now long over. It is an age unlikely to return.

Small watercraft -- canoes, rowboats, small sailers -- have been used on Gull Lake from the turn of the century. Often these have been used for recreation, as have rented boats, from the local equivalent of the corporation boat (a short, beamy class of flat-floored rowing keel boat developed specifically for hire) to the motorboats available for rent today. Although the numbers of boats seen on the lake may increase, these are almost entirely recreational.

What then has been the historical significance of the *Kangaroo* and the *Sea Gull*? First, the *Kangaroo* typifies in a fine way the imagination and enterprise of those pioneers who, around Gull Lake and elsewhere, changed an almost unmarked wilderness into the settled land of today. Second, both vessels typify one aspect of the many uses of steam- power in the settlement of the Canadian West.

Gull Lake, in the meantime, continues to be of some importance in the local economy, although its primary use now is recreational, not commercial. There was a time when Gull Lake was much more commercially important, but that time was nearly over on a stormy summer afternoon in 1909 when the *Kangaroo,* after burning the last of her fuel, rolled helplessly in the waves, to puff and hiss until her heart grew cold.



Drawing of the steam launch Sea Gull on Gull Lake.

CHAPTER SEVEN

EARLY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO GULL LAKE

By Richard L. Coulton

In the 1890's when settlement began around Gull Lake, the liveries provided the first public transportation service in the region. Liveries were important businesses in the early towns. Besides providing a stopping place for teams, drivers and travellers, they were also places where horses, buggies, democrats, freight wagons and cutters could be hired as needed, sometimes complete with driver.

Many of the livery services used by travellers around the southern end of Gull Lake were provided by establishmentsin Lacombe, several kilometres to the east, which was the nearest point on the Calgary-Edmonton Trail and the Calgary-Edmonton Railway. The earliest known Lacombe livery operated briefly soon after 1891; by the time it closed prior to 1895 at least two others had already opened. Liveries were numerous in Lacombe until they declined rapidly in importance with the coming of the automobile in the years after 1912.

Lacombe's Arcade Livery, opened around 1900, is of interest for providing the teams which hauled some of the timber used for construction of Gull Lake's first summer cottages. Other Lacombe liveries which would have been familiar to Gull Lake residents included the Stephanson Bros. Livery, the Alberta, the Star, along with those operated by Fortune & Tice, Garner, Kotterman and Maxfield.

The first regularly-scheduled public transportation to Gull Lake and other points in the Gull Lake country was the stagecoach operated by Alfred Coverdale between 1903 and 1911 on a route which took it west from Lacombe to Gull Lake, on to Bentley, then north up the Blindman Valley to Forshee and Rimbey.

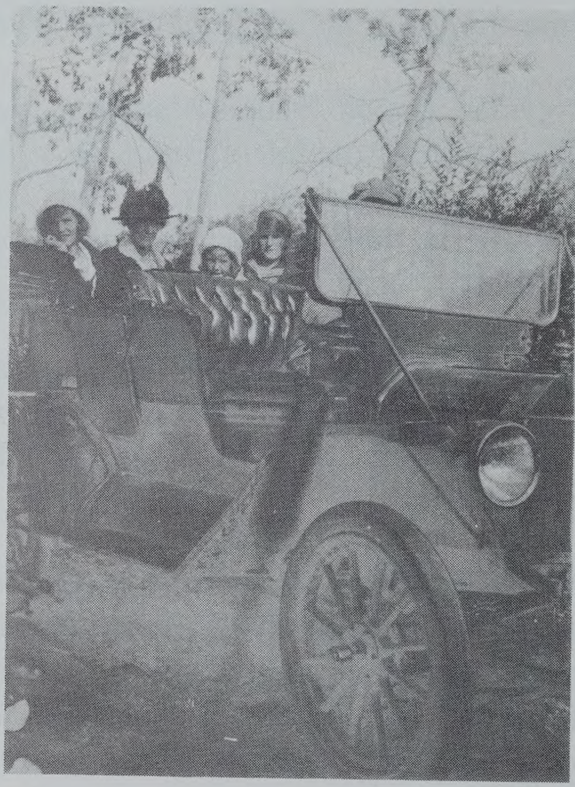
Soon after settling near Rimbey, Coverdale, an ex-railway conductor from Kansas, had been awarded the contractfor carrying the mails between Lacombe and Rimbey. Besides mail, the coach, hauled by a team of Cleveland bays named Dolly and Pet, carried both passengers and express freight. Coverdale's railroad background was apparent in the way his coach completed each run on time. Drivers included Ralph Mowbray, Henry Castleman, Stuart Gillen, Sam Christopherson and Merton Challand.

Each trip took a day to complete -- two days per round trip -- including a break at Bentley, where driver and passengers had their lunch. At first the stagecoach made one round trip each week, but as business grew the schedule was expanded to two round trips each week and then expanded again to daily journeys.

These journeys were not noted for their comfort, and a passenger travelling the entire route could anticipate a long and tiring day as the coach made its way along the rough roads. It is of interest to note that even in the stagecoach era road maintenance was a subject of local concern.

Before Alberta had yet become a province the Lacombe Board of Trade sought funds from the Northwest Territories Department of Public Works to improve the road between Lacombe and Gull Lake. Indeed, road conditions "east and west of Lacombe" continued to be of regular and frequent concern to the Board.

Although we still have our bureaucratic machinery --departments of highways and the like -- for road maintenance,the days when horses powered the transportation to Gull Lake are long over, replaced by the "Age of the Car." The stagecoach era belongs to a brief, almost forgotten -- but nonetheless interesting -- segment of Gull Lake history. Today the perspective has changed, and a day-long, wearying and uncomfortable journey has been replaced by a 35-minute airconditioned ride with unmatched comfort in all weathers. Today Lacombe remains on the Calgary - Edmonton Trail, but Gull Lake is now "nearby".



1914 - Kate Elliott and daughters, Alice, Kay and Nan, travelling by Sage's Stagecoach from Lacombe to cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Coverdale.

The First Public Transportation in Gull Lake area was Mr. Coverdale's stagecoach. Dolly and Pet seen here with driver Ralph Mowbray.

L&BVE – L&NW – CPR: THE RAILWAY PAST GULL LAKE

By Richard L. Coulton

The first settlers in the country west of Lacombe quickly discovered that during much of the year the trails of the district were not particularly suited to vehicles heavier than Red River carts. From spring until freeze-up deep mudholes were common. Winter travel, including the use of a short-cut across the ice of Gull Lake, although easier, could still be difficult and unpleasant, with the added hazard of a loaded sled breaking through the ice. For local residents, particularly farmers, such transportation difficulties on a regular basis left much to be desired. The strong appeal of a railway is understandable.

To a group of eighteen farmers, businessmen and professional men from Lacombe, Gull Lake, Bentley and Rimbey the idea of a railway became irresistible. Headed by farmer Major William McPherson and including William Wiese of Gull Lake, the group initially planned an electric railway, influenced perhaps by the electric railway craze then sweeping the country.

Although the line was named the Lacombe and Blindman Valley Electric Railway and its charter called for it to be "propelled by electricity or by any other motive or mechanical power" the idea of using electric traction was quickly dropped. As projected, the line's head office would be in Lacombe, from which community it would extend westward past the southern end of Gull Lake to enter the Blindman Valley downstream from Bentley, from which it would follow the eastern side of the valley to a terminal at Rimbey.

Although local residents were enthusiastic, the necessary funds proved difficult to raise and it was not until September 9, 1913, after the provincial government had guaranteed 20 miles of grading at $7000.00 per mile, that the first sod was turned.

Grading of the line began in a burst of enthusiasm, with local farmers lending their own teams to assist the construction. Work ceased with the arrival of winter and resumed at the end of April, 1914. It was confidently expected that Bentley would be reached by mid-July, but circumstances intervened which were quite unforeseen by contractors and promoters (and local residents, come to that.) Among the best-known of these was the outbreak of the First World War. The accompanying real-estate market crash, along with higher than anticipated expenses and a scarcity of equipment and materials, made further construction impossible without another guarantee of funds by the Province.

These were forthcoming. The grade reached Bentley in 1917, and the purchase of sufficient second-hand rail allowed steel to be laid on the grade. The first train reached Bentley on November 28.

It was around this time that the railway began to operate its well-known English-built gas-electric rail-car Number M-1, which it named "Lacombe." The car had been bought in 1914, at which time an order was also placed -- and soon cancelled -- for a locomotive powered on the same system.

Along with this 36-seat "doodle-bug" (which was scrapped by the CPR in 1928) the railway operated a piece of motive power which was probably the inspiration for the railway's well-known sobriquet of "Peanut Line." This was a small 0-4-OST type of saddletank steam locomotive permanently coupled to a flatcar which, fitted with a fuel bunker just behind the engine, served as a tender and means of transporting miscellaneous freight and supplies.

The line's charter contained some noteworthy provisions. Because of the very local nature of the line it is not surprising that many shareholders, directors included, also worked for the company or sold it supplies. Although normally considered an unethical arrangement, banning it would scarcely be practical for the L&BVER; instead, a special clause allowed directors to also deal with the company provided the nature of such dealings was disclosed at a directors' meeting.

Equally understandable was the attitude among some that, as they had helped to build the line, they should be allowed to travel free. In anticipation, a clause in the charter allowed any passenger convicted of not paying the fare or not producing a ticket when requested to be liable to a fine of between $2.00 and $10.00. In practice a passenger beginning a journey simply calculated whether the fare or fine would be cheaper, and paid accordingly.

1918 was the year the financially-troubled railway came under direct government control. Twelve government officials were elected directors of the company at a November 30 shareholders' meeting at which time the name was changed to the Lacombe and North-Western Railway.

Further construction continued in fits and starts, and so frustrated did some 65 local residents become that they went to the end of steel and took over the construction themselves. The government immediately authorized further work and the end of steel reached Rimbey in October of 1919.

The following year saw the beginning of the Lacombe & North- Western's association with the Alberta & Great Waterways Railway. The three lines operating in Northern Alberta -- Alberta & Great Waterways; Central Canada Railway; Edmonton, Dunvegan & BC (later amalgamated in the Northern Alberta Railways) - all belonging to J.C.McArthur of Winnipeg, had been taken over by the Alberta Government after financial difficulties. The government, after leasing the ED&BC (the "Ever Dangerous & Badly Constructed") and the CCR to Canadian Pacific, decided to manage the A&GW and the L&NW itself from a head office in Edmonton.

One effect of this association was the frequent appearance on L&NW steel of A&GW equipment. This included, along with steam locomotives and coaches, a McKeen gasoline rail car which was one of a pair acquired by J.D.McArthur in 1914 for passenger service on his northern Alberta lines. Although the all-steel body of a McKeen car, with its wedge-shaped front end and round windows, was ahead of its time, the transmission was not, as McArthur had quickly discovered. Operated between Edmonton and Lac La Biche, the two rail-cars suffered frequent break-downs.

Aspen Beach had grown into a popular summer resort by this time and the nature of the passenger traffic was much better suited to the use of a "doodle-bug" than a conventional locomotive and cars. A&GW/L&NW management decided to try out McKeen car 711 on the Lacombe-Aspen Beach run, with its much shorter distance, in the summer of 1921. But No. 711 fared no better than it had on the Edmonton-Lac La Biche run, breaking down and having to be hauled back to Edmonton before finishing the summer season.

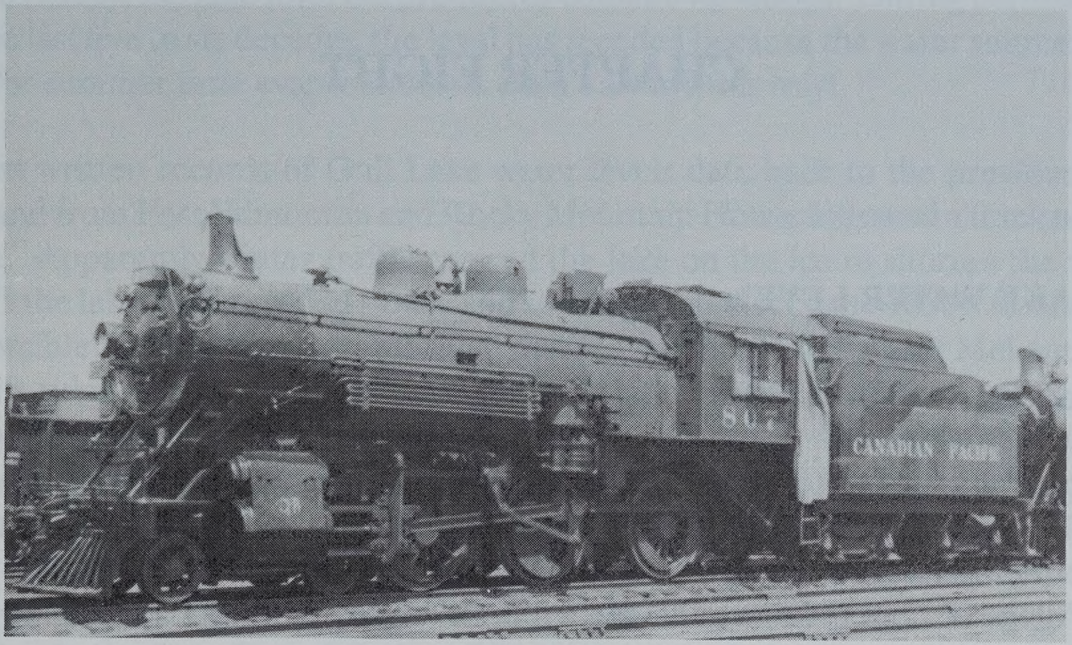
In 1922 L&NW construction proceeded north from Rimbey, with regular service to Hoadley being inaugurated by the end of the year. Changes were also made to facilities along the line. An enginehouse and machine shop located at Rimbey along with a watertank and pumphouse at Outlet Creek were moved to new terminal facilities at Lacombe. In addition a freight warehouse at Bentley was converted into a pair of station buildings.

Expansion continued three years later. Work began on an extension northward from Hoadley to the town of Breton. By freeze-up late in 1925 rails had reached Winfield. With the arrival of Spring, work resumed and the line was completed to Breton in November of 1926.

All this time the Alberta Government had been attempting to sell the L&NW to either Canadian Pacific or the newly-formed Canadian National Railways. On its own the line had become a money-loser, but it was hoped that it could become a useful part of a larger system and by doing so continue to provide rail service to those along its route.

In 1928 the quest proved successful. Canadian Pacific took over L&NW operations on March 1 after agreeing to pay $1,5000,000 and to assume the short line's indebtedness of $273,000. Canadian Pacific continued to extend the line, finally completing it to a junction with its Calgary - to - Edmonton line (ex-Calgary & Edmonton Railway) in 1931.

Changes made by Canadian Pacific in recent years have included ending all passenger service, the construction in the early 1960's of an 8.25 mile branchline northeastwards from a point north of Rimbey to the Rimbey Gas Plant and the abandonment of the original L&NW line between Breton and the junction north of Rimbey.



After Canadian Pacific took over the L&NW in 1928, trains were operated over the line by CPR D-class Ten-wheelers similar to Engine 807, shown here.

Southbound near Forshee in the Blindman Valley west of Gull Lake.

Diesel-hauled CPRail freight is operating over the old Lacombe and North Western line built in 1919 to connect Rimbey with Bentley and Aspen Beach. Line still provides the only rail service in the Gull Lake region.

CHAPTER EIGHT

GULL LAKE WATER LEVEL

By Bob Blackett

The one topic guaranteed to catch the attention of any Gull Lake devotee is its water level. This would certainly be true in the "modern" era since about 1928-30 when a steady, gradual decline of the lake level became evident. Keeping in mind that much of what is now the Summer Village of Gull Lake was developed in the early part of the 20th century, probably 1905 - 1920, those early residents had almost three decades of relative lake level stability. They probably gave this matter little thought, except perhaps when high water levels during storms washed out piers or boat houses. It's their descendants and others who have learned to live with a shrinking lake. Until the water level stabilization project was a factor by 1976, it was easy to drum up a lively conversation about the water - privately and even at Summer Village Annual Meetings. People who haven't visited the lake in years still enquire about our 'favorite' subject.

It's interesting to think about Gull Lake in its geological setting, then relate that to a gradually changing environment. The lake itself is a remnant of the last glacial age as those massive ice structures receded from the central plains of North America at least 10,000 years ago. There is ample evidence of local, that is from the lake easterly at least as far as Buffalo Lake, glacial pausing and melting. The Lacombe area has numerous potholes created when ice, insulated by an overburden of glacial till, melted while the ground level subsided. Viewed from the air or on topographical maps one can easily identify numerous surface features that are aligned in parallel fashion between Aspen Beach and Buffalo Lake. In particular there is a series of aligned ridges, drumlins, ice-flow markings and esker ridges roughly flanking No. 2 Highway from Penhold to Morningside. These ridges consist of glacial till, sand, clay, silt and gravel - all products of glacial melting. The numerous gravel pits evident in the Blackfalds area adjacent to the highway are good examples of modern man making use of glacial remnants.

Gull Lake itself sits in a localized depression or basin of some 24 square miles within a small topographical high of about 95 square miles, once again the product of glacial melt. Because of this position there is no stream feed into the lake at the present time. It sort of sits there as a puddle of water in a very small local depression within a regionally small topographical high. One wonders how it has lasted at all with such a small watershed. Modern day sources of feed are snow melt, rain, underground springs, and, when used, the Blindman River stabilization project. Obviously, the lake level is a product of climatic variations. During periods of relative dryness, the last five to six decades, the level has receded because the water sources have been no match for summer time evaporation. It wasn't always this way!

The earliest written records of Gull Lake water levels date back to the previous century as traders to and from Fort Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House followed a track not far south of the lake. Apparently winter traffic crossed the lake on the ice to shorten the trip. In the early 1800's the lake level receded slowly and steadily such that by the 1850's summer crossing became possible over a narrow gravel ridge that led southwest from near McLaurin's Beach. By 1860 this ridge was fully exposed. The climate later reversed itself so that by the turn of the present century modern day high levels were recorded. Precipitation was generally abundant, but summer time wet periods varied in duration and intensity. It's reported that weather during the late winter, spring and summer of 1899 was about average, but heavy snow on August 25 was followed by almost continuous rain and snow into November. Similar conditions prevailed for the next four years and it's said the only difference being that the wet period began a month earlier each year. This cycle ceased abruptly in January, 1904 after a very heavy snowfall to be followed by an April melt and 'summer-like' conditions.

The return of 'normal' precipitation in 1904 resulted in a slow retreat of water levels; however, there was abundant moisture for another decade. It was during this lovely period that Gull Lake received the attention of developers and soon to be cottagers and the Summer Village of Gull Lake had its start.

Following 1914 or so, the climate, and hence the lake level, varied from year to year for the next 15 years. The long current relatively dry cycle has influenced the water level for the past 50 to 60 years, negatively as we all know.

The 'official' lake level as recorded on the Geological Survey of Canada Surficial Geology Map, published in 1960, is 2960 feet (902.2 m). The map refers to G.S.C. reports of 1947, 1948 and 1951. The same map shows the elevation of Aspen Beach, in the vicinity of where Hwy. 12 from Lacombe swings WSW, to be 2967 feet (904.3 m). This modern day map probably reflects the lake level when detailed mapping commenced in the area in the late 1920's that was a mere seven feet below the Aspen Beach bench mark! Is it any wonder that the earliest residents had problems with storms that washed up ice and logs, which not only cluttered the beach and property, but destroyed piers and boat houses?

West of Aspen Beach, along the southwest shore of the lake, the water extended well into the valley past the present day Meridian Camp, draining, at its peak levels, through Outlet Creek into the Blindman River. In early 1908 this outlet was deepened and equipped with a gate, really a dam, to better control the flow of water from Gull Lake into the Blindman River. Interestingly, this is the same route used today to pump water from the Blindman into the lake. This gate or dam was destroyed before 1915 resulting in a dramatic lowering of the lake level.

Some lake level measurements record the recent history:

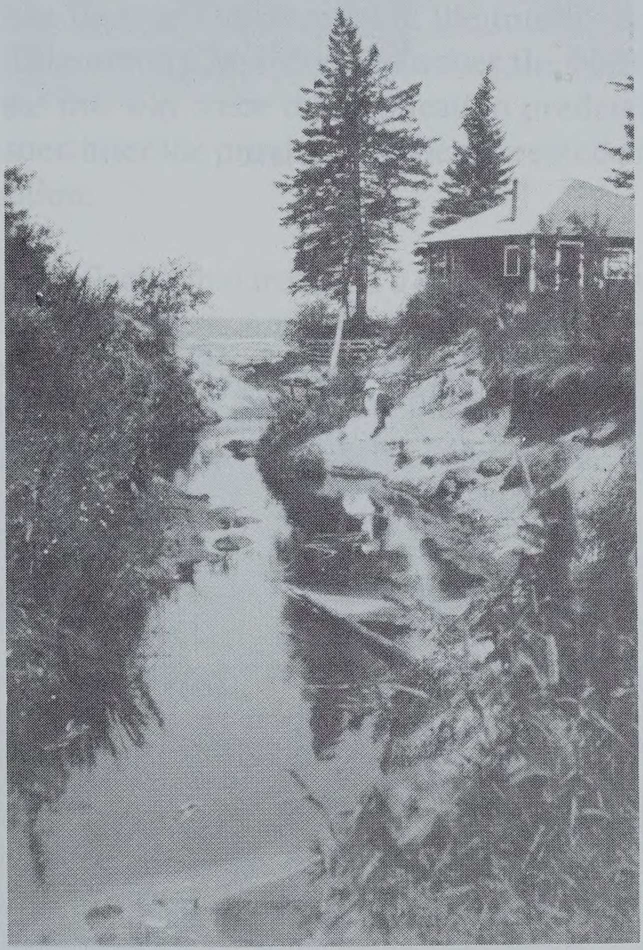
	1924	2958 feet (901.5 m)
August 18,	1927	2958.6 feet (901.8 m)
	1928	2960 feet (902.2 m)

	1969	2949 feet (898.9 m)
	1976	2949 feet (898.9 m) Pumping started
October	1977	2947.9 feet (898.5 m) Lowest level
	1978	2947.9 feet (898.5 m)
May	1979	2948.44 feet (898.68 m)
May 31,	1982	2950.1 feet (899.19 m)
July 5,	1982	2950.5 feet (899.32 m) Pumping stopped
	1983	2950 feet (899.16 m)

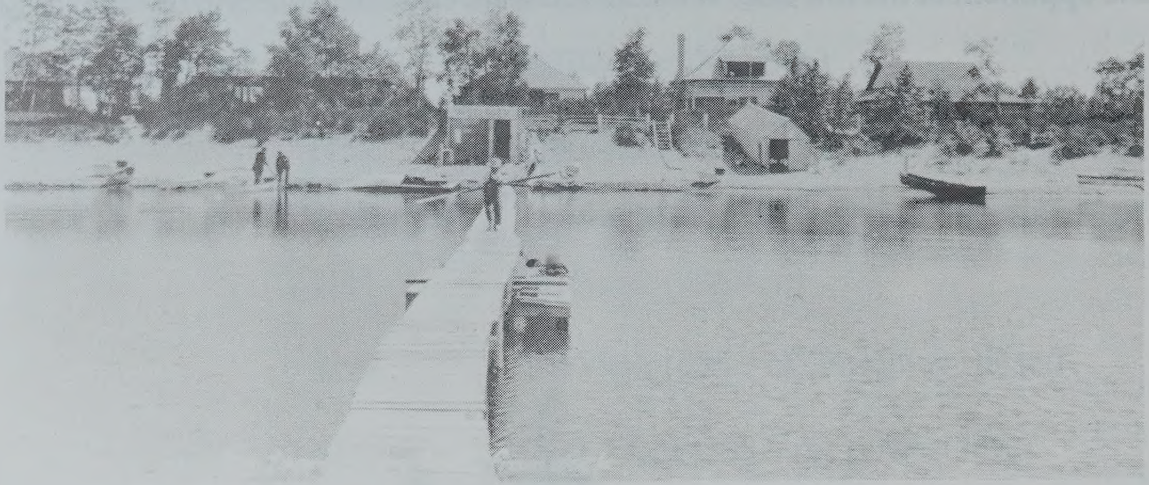
Thus from a 20th century high level of 2960 feet to the low of 2947.9 feet in 1977 the lake receded about 12 feet or at an average rate of almost 3 inches annually. Not a lot from year to year, but it has made a substantial difference to cottage life over the past 50 to 60 years.

The stabilization project had as an original target level 2953 feet (900 m), some seven feet below the 1928 level and 5.1 feet above the 1977 low. The original target was changed to 2950 feet, as reported in the Red Deer Regional Planning Commission report of September 1978, because of concerns about possible water quality changes and flooding of vegetation which has grown on the exposed lake bed. This target was changed in 1985/86 to slightly above 2950 feet.

Where does the lake level go from a 1988 vantage point in our 75th year as a Village? Can residents and cottage owners look forward to more and more beach area, unimpaired by deteriorating water quality? Or can they expect a cyclical return to very wet conditions, a rising lake level and an input of fresh, clean water? The so-called 70 year cycle seems to have gone by without a return to heavier snows and rainfall, or has it? The 1981/82 experience, as modest as it was, illustrates how quickly things can change. Those who wish for a return to higher lake levels need to hope for a succession of wet, 'lousy' lake summers, interspersed with very snowy winters and springs. Those who like things the way they are may get their wishes, but nothing is constant in nature. We can always control things at the high end, but Mother Nature is a formidable opponent at the low end. We shall see what climatic cards will be dealt as time goes on!



Lake at high level-creek by Broadway store.



Lake level in 1914.

Lake level 1981.

THE BLINDMAN RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY LIMITED

By Bob Blackett

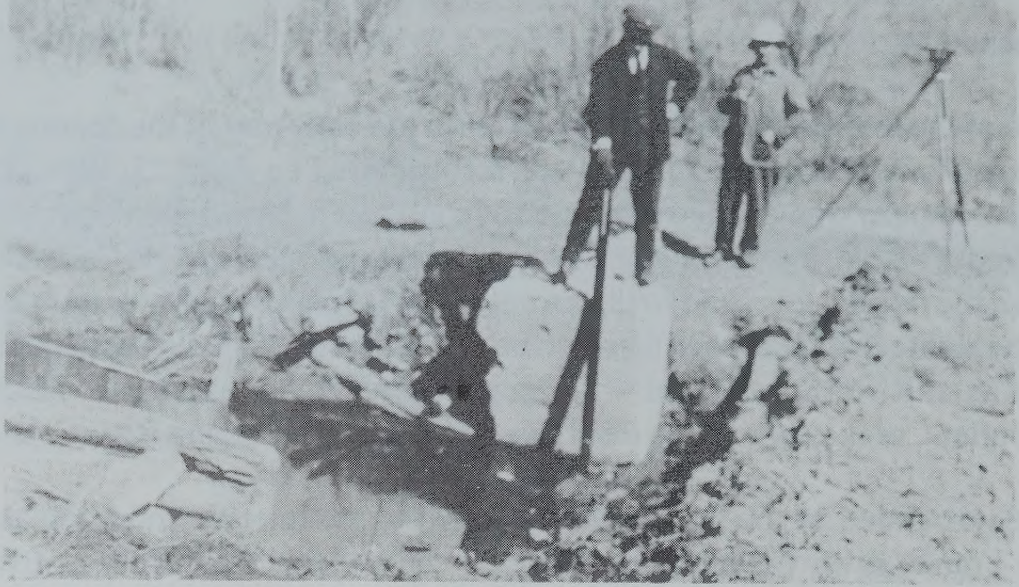
As evidence of the interest in the high lake levels in the early part of the century the Blindman River Electric Power Company Limited was incorporated on April 25, 1904. On November 11, 1908 the company was granted a license to "construct a dam at the outlet of Gull Lake on the SW/4-35-40-1W5M for the purpose of conserving the waters of the said lake to eighteen inches above the normal level and to direct water from the lake so as to lower the normal level of the lake by eighteen inches when found to be necessary in connection with their power works on the Blindman River through the works constructed by the licensees." This location is on the same Outlet Creek now used to divert water from the Blindman River into Gull Lake.

The licence was issued by the Federal Department of the Interior under the authority of the Honorable Frank Oliver (Edmonton), Minister and under the North West Irrigation Act of 1894 and 1895. It was done this way since the application predated Alberta as a province, although the licence was issued after the province had been created and because the lake itself came under federal jurisdiction.

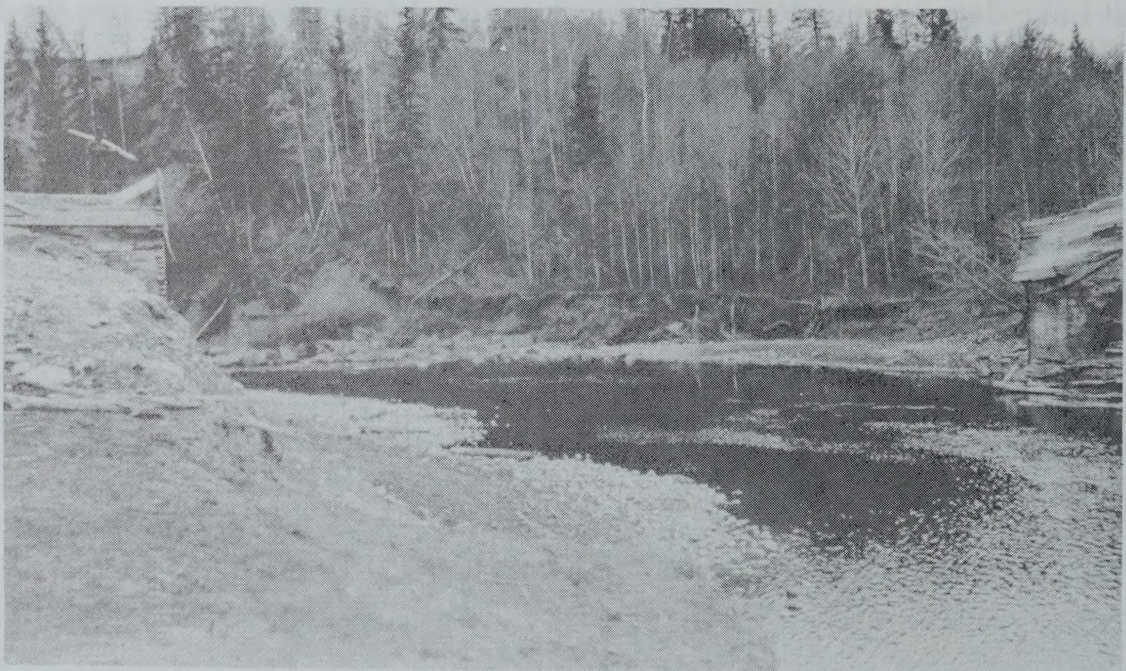
The Company had a "water privilege" that included a dam and Power Plant on the Blindman in N/2-13-39-27W4M just above where it enters the Red Deer River not far from Blackfalds. The Gull Lake dam was needed to control water flow in the Blindman above the Plant site. The objects of the Company are "to create power for the generation and transmission of electricity, and for use in manufacturing". Their application speaks of 640 HP at low water and 2000 HP at high water.

The Company did construct the dam as planned and it was certified by John Stewart, Commissioner and Chief Engineer of Irrigation, Dept. of the Interior, on October 9, 1908. However, the Company assigned its rights under its licence to the Town of Lacombe in January 26, 1910.

The two facilities continued to operate, along with troublesome problems, supplying Lacombe with power for a modest street light system until spring floods destroyed the lower dam in 1915. It's significant that in a federal government survey conducted the year before in July 1914, it was observed that the Gull Lake dam had been destroyed. The power plant machinery and equipment was sold in 1920 and the system was converted to a steam plant, presumably fueled by coal until 1929 when Calgary Power took over.



Circa 1922 - Gull Lake outlet - showing remainder of old dam and location of new dam.



Remains of Blindman River Power Co.'s dam.

Blindman River near Blackfalds.

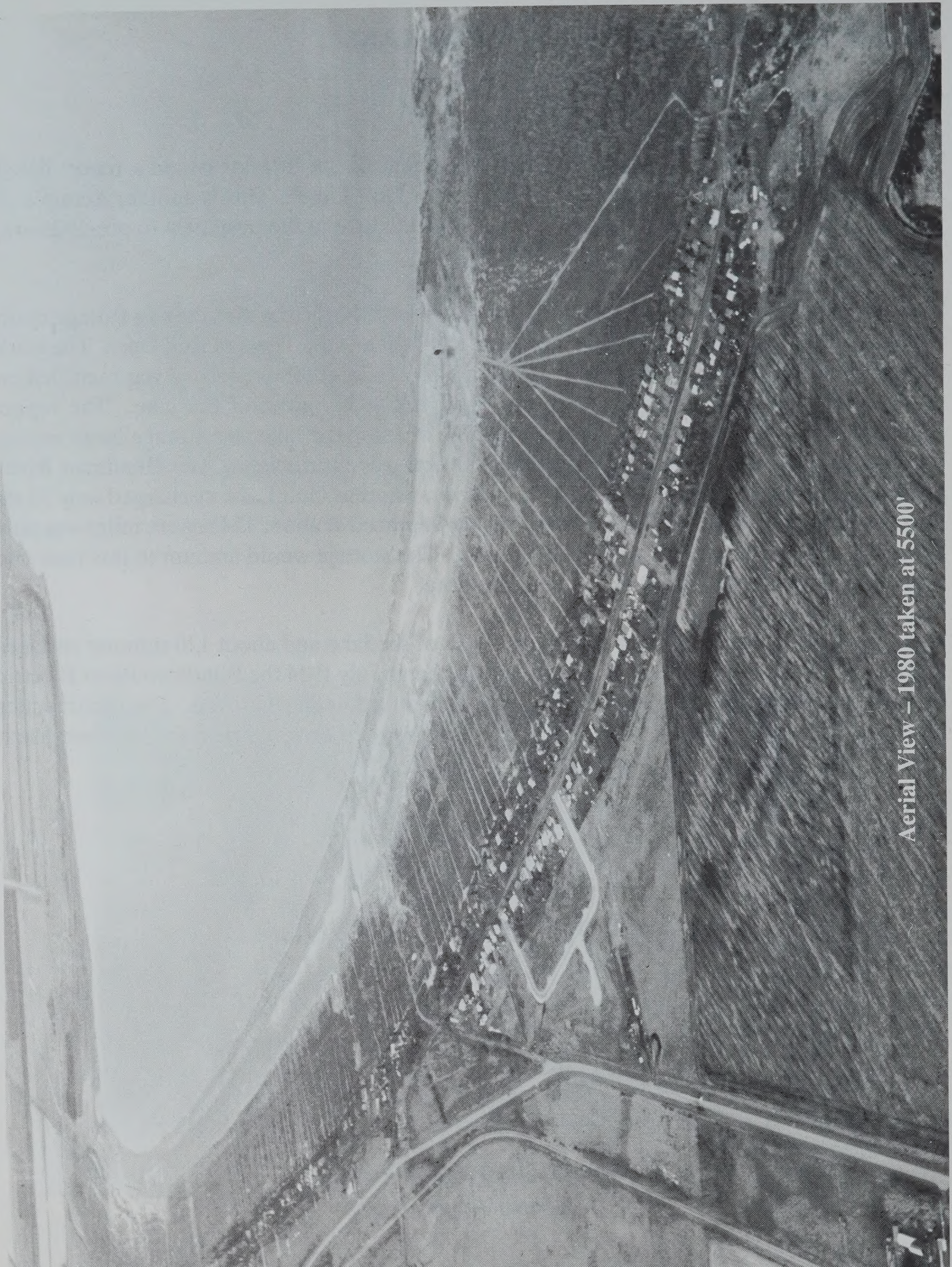
WATER STORAGE POSSIBILITIES OF GULL LAKE

By Bob Blackett

The Water Power Branch of the Federal Department of the Interior issued a report dated February 24, 1915 entitled "Storage Possibilities of Gull Lake". This is another example of people paying attention to the high water levels of the lake in the post 1904 to pre-1925 era; the reverse problem of the decades since 1930.

The purpose of the study was to ascertain the possibility of utilizing the lake as a storage basin to augment the low water flow of the Red Deer River below the Town of Red Deer. The work was done on July 8 and 9, 1914. A discharge rate of 33 cubic feet per second was recorded on Gull Creek (Outlet Creek?) about a half mile below the outlet of the lake. The report concluded that there was only a small possibility of using the lake as a storage basin mainly because the amount of water that could be stored was insufficient. The Blindman River discharged about 289 cfs into the Red Deer River, whereas Gull Lake discharged only 33 cfs into the Blindman. The drainage area of the lake reported at about 124 square miles was only about 1/6 of the drainage area of the Blindman. The storage would amount to less than one foot annually or about 25,000 feet, a small volume.

The report speaks of increasing recreational use of the lake and about 120 summer cottages and one hotel along Aspen Beach. It also reports that in July 1914 the Blindman River Electric Power Company, Limited's dam along Outlet Creek had been destroyed. The report states that locals said the dam had been blown out by fishermen or settlers on the lake because it prevented fish from getting up the creek to the lake.



Aerial View – 1980 taken at 5500'

A
SUMMER
VILLAGE
BEGINS

CHAPTER NINE

An Act to Incorporate the Village of Gull Lake *(Assented to March 25, 1913.)*

WHEREAS Frank H. Holmes, William Wiese, George Thomson, E.C. Emery, Hon. Charles A. Stuart and others, have by their petition, prayed that they may be incorporated under The Village Ordinance as a village municipality under the name of "The Village of Gull Lake" and that municipal powers be granted to "The Village of Gull Lake," and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition; Therefore His Majesty, by and with the consent and advice of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. From and after the passing of this Act, the owners of lands in the subdivision set forth in section numbered two (2) hereof, and their successors, shall be, and are hereby declared to be a body corporate within the meaning of The Village Act, under the name of "The Village of Gull Lake."

2. The said Village of Gull Lake shall consist of the following land, namely: Plan of Gull Lake, number thirty-three (33), filed by William Wiese; plan of addition to Gull Lake Summer Resort, number 2352S, filed by William Wiese; Aspern Townsite, plan seventy-seven (77), filed by Annie L. Mobley; Eureka Resort, plan number 1900R, filed by Messrs. Trimble, Scott & Garland; together with the road allowances or streets between and adjoining the said lands, excepting the road allowance which passes through the north-west quarter of section twenty-three (23) and the north-east quarter of section twenty two (22), in township forty (40), in range twenty-eight (28), west of the fourth meridian; and together with the Beach of Gull Lake adjoining the said lands, so far as the same has been patented by the Crown.

3. The Village Act and all amendments thereto, or hereafter made, or any Act in substitution thereof, shall in so far as the same are applicable, be incorporated herewith, and form part of this Act.

4. "Year" means a period of twelve months beginning with the first day of August in each year.

5. Every male person of the age of twenty-one years, who is the owner or occupant of ratable land within the village, who has paid all taxes due to the village in respect of such land, who is not under any disabilities hereinafter specified, and who is a duly qualified elector of the village, shall be qualified to be elected and act as a member of the council of the village.

6. A meeting of the electors of the village shall be held in each year for the nomination of candidates for the office of councillors, on the second Saturday in July, at 8 p.m., provided that if such day is a holiday, the nomination shall take place on the next subsequent day not being a holiday.

7. The secretary-treasurer shall report to the department the names and addresses of the councillors elected for the current year, together with the name of the chairman of the council, not later than the fifteenth day of August following.

8. Every council shall meet at such times as are appointed by resolution, and shall meet at least twice in every year, and every meeting shall be open to the public.

9. The assessment provided for in The Village Act to be made of all property in the village, shall be completed not later than the first of December in each year.

10. All persons paying taxes on or before the first day of July of the year in which such taxes were levied, may be allowed a reduction of ten (10) per centum on the same; from the first day of July until the thirty-first day of July, taxes shall be payable at par; on the first day of August following, as a penalty, an additional sum, amounting to ten (10) percentum of such taxes shall be added thereto; on the first day of August in each year thereafter, as a penalty, an additional sum, amounting to ten (10) per centum of all arrears of taxes shall be added thereto.

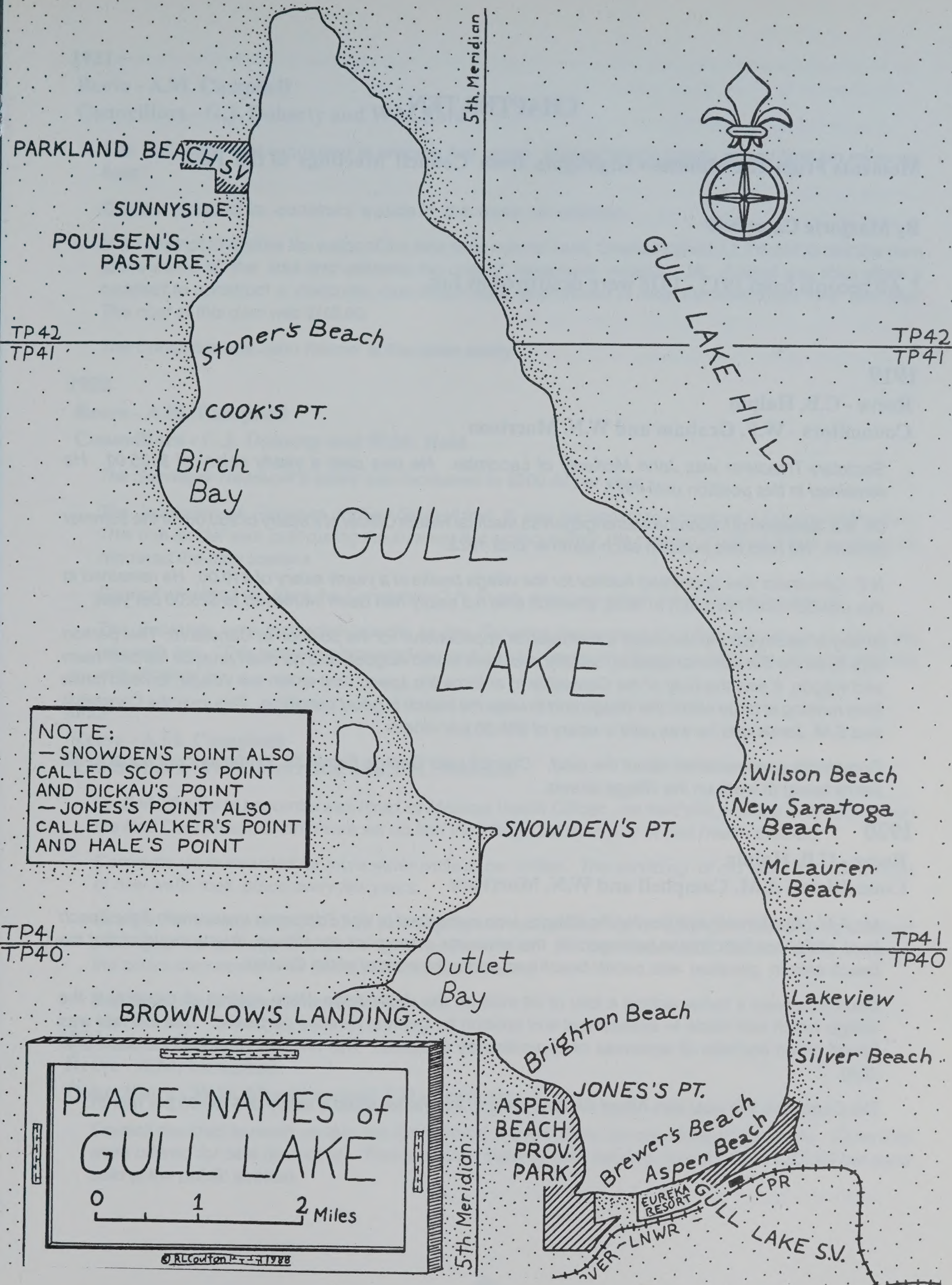
11. The books of every village shall be audited as soon as possible after the first day of August and not later than the fifteenth day of August following, in each and every year by an official auditor appointed under the provisions of any Act or by a competent person to be named for the purpose by the Minister. The auditor shall make a full report of his examination, and audit of all such books, accounts, records, lists, vouchers and moneys, transmit one copy thereof to the Minister and hand a second copy to the council.

12. The secretary-treasurer shall not later than the first mail after the 9th day of August in each year, render the Minister a return in writing of those matters required by The Village Act to be included in such return.

13. The secretary-treasurer shall in the first fifteen days of August in each year make to the Minister the return of unpaid taxes required by The Village Act.

14. The said municipality is hereby empowered to pay the costs in connection with its incorporation.

15. The nomination for councillors for the first council shall be held on the 12th day of July, 1913, and the first election of councillors shall be held on the 19th day of July, 1913, and the first returning officer shall be appointed by the Minister.


PLACE-NAMES of
GULL LAKE
0
1
2 Miles
© R.L.Coulton 1988
PARKLAND BEACH S.V.
SUNNYSIDE
POULSEN'S PASTURE
5th. Meridian
GULL LAKE HILLS
TP42
TP41
Stoner's Beach
COOK'S PT.
Birch Bay
GULL
LAKE
NOTE:
— SNOWDEN'S POINT ALSO CALLED SCOTT'S POINT AND DICKAU'S POINT
— JONES'S POINT ALSO CALLED WALKER'S POINT AND HALE'S POINT
SNOWDEN'S PT.
Wilson Beach
New Saratoga Beach
McLauren Beach
TP41
TP40
Outlet Bay
BROWNLOW'S LANDING
Lakeview
Brighton Beach
Silver Beach
JONES'S PT.
ASPEN BEACH PROV. PARK
Brewer's Beach
Aspen Beach
EUREKA RESORT
GULL LAKE S.V.
CPR
VER-LNWR
5th. Meridian

CHAPTER TEN

Moments From The Minutes - Highlights from Council Meetings of the Past

By Marjorie Campbell

* All records from 1913 - 1918 were destroyed by fire.

1919

Reeve - C.B. Halpin
Councillors - W.F. Graham and W.N. Morrison

Secretary-Treasurer was John McKenty of Lacombe. He was paid a yearly salary of $125.00. He remained in this position until 1926.

Dr. W.J. Simpson of Lacombe was engaged as Medical Health Officer at a salary of $50.00 for the summer season. He held this position each summer until 1923.

N.E. Carruthers was appointed Auditor for the village books at a yearly salary of $10.00. He remained in this position until his death in 1930, at which time his salary had been increased to $25.00 per year.

In May of each year the Secretary advertised for applications for the position of Constable. This person was hired for the summer season, usually mid-June to mid-August, and he must provide his own team and wagon. It was the duty of the Constable to enforce the speed limit within the Village, to keep cattle from running at large within the Village and to keep the beach in good condition. This year the Constable was E.M. Jones and he was paid a salary of $85.00 per month.

Complaints were received about the road. Council paid George Fernie $6.30 (the amount equal to his yearly taxes) to work on the Village streets.

1920

Reeve - C.B. Halpin
Councillors - A.M. Campbell and W.N. Morrison

Mr. A.M. MacDonald, solicitor for the Village, was authorized to visit Edmonton to ascertain if the beach front of Aspern Subdivision belonged to the property owners or the Village. It was decided that the beach area in question was public beach and under the control of the Council.

Council passed a bylaw setting a levy of 20 mills on the dollar to be made against all property in the Village which was liable to assessment and taxation for general revenue purposed. This mill rate was based on an estimate of expenses of approximately $1000.00. This mill rate remained constant until 1940.

The Constable this year was Alfred Charles Bleach, and he received a salary of $100.00 per month.

1921

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - G.J. Doherty and W.M.Reid

The Secretary was requested to procure two signs stating "Village Limits, speed limit ten miles per hour."

Council decided to construct a slide in the water for children.

In an attempt to restore the water of the lake to its normal level, Council asked J.I. Frizzell to visit the dam at the outlet of the lake and estimate the cost of necessary repairs. Mr. Frizzell was then given a contract to construct a concrete dam which was guaranteed to raise the level of the lake two feet. The cost of this dam was $140.00.

The Constable was John Renner at the same salary.

1922

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - G.J. Doherty and W.M. Reid

The Secretary-Treasurer's salary was increased to $200.00 per year.

The Inspector of Fisheries notified Council that it was necessary to construct a fish way at the dam. This fish-ladder was built during the summer but, unfortunately, the manner in which it was constructed rendered the dam useless.

Council decided to have the Constable, D.H. Dunn, erect a number of swings at the beach.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Fisheries Department for information as to stocking the lake with fish. (This became a repeated request over the years, and finally, in 1940, the lake was stocked with pickerel.)

1923

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - W.N. Morrison and T.H. Newman

Dr. E.M. Sharpe of Lacombe was hired as Medical Health Officer. He held this position until 1931, when the Red Deer Health District was set up and the Village became part of that Health District.

Contracts were awarded for more water wells to be drilled. The servicing of old wells and the drilling of new wells took place every few years.

George Fernie was engaged to do scavenging and refuse clean up for $250.00. Scavenging involved picking up the garbage and cleaning of the outhouses. (He continued to do this until 1934; however, the salary decreased to as little as $100.00 some years.)

Ben Sevdy was hired as Constable this year.

1924

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - W.N. Morrison and T.H. Newman

Council decided to retain certain lots forfeited for unpaid taxes for use of the Municipality. Other lots were offered for sale by auction. These lots had reserve bids ranging from $10.00 to $200.00 but none sold at the public auction.

A Court of Revision upheld the assessment of a property in Aspen Subdivision at $5.00 per frontage foot. (Compared to $1,000.00 per foot in 1982)

The Constable was Jos Koski at a salary of $125.00 per month.

1925

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - W.N. Morrison and T.H. Newman

The annual rate payers' meeting called for the construction of roads at the northern end of Aspen Subdivision. In light of this, the Council sold the old road grader for $25.00 and bought a new one for $165.00. The Woellner Brothers bought three lots from the Village for $125.00. The next year they put up a building and applied for a restaurant license.

Constable Glen Fosnaugh received a salary of $75.00 per month.

1926

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - W.N. Morrison and T.H. Newman

Duncan F. Chisholm of Lacombe was appointed Secretary-Treasurer at the "usual salary" ($200.00 per year). In addition to the duties of secretary-treasurer, he acted as Returning Officer for the election of Council and as Assessor. As Assessor, he would receive an additional fee of $1.00 per year. (Duncan Chisholm served the Village for nineteen years, until his resignation in June of 1945.)

The sum of $50.00 was spent to advertise the attractions of Gull Lake in The Edmonton Journal and Calgary Herald. It was hoped that this would bring more summer visitors.

Council considered bringing the R.J. Scott Subdivision of Glen Eden Park into the Village of Gull Lake. However, no decision was arrived at and by mutual consent the matter was dropped.

Constable for the summer was Wm. Newton at a monthly salary of $90.00.

1927

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - W.N. Morrison and Leban Sandbrook

The Secretary was instructed to procure two signs stating "To Gull Lake." One was to be set up at Day's corner and one at Del. Henderson's corner.

Lloyd Mortar was the Constable this year.

1928

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - Dr. S. Archibald and W.N. Morrison

The General Meeting of Rate Payers was held in Fernie's Hall. In attendance with the Council and Secretary were Mr. & Mrs. George Fernie, Mr. & Mrs. C.B. Halpin, Mr. & Mrs. William McNab, Dr. & Mrs. E.M. Sharpe and Mr. Otto Woellner. A discussion took place regarding the building of a Bungalow Camp (motel). It was decided to ask the Superintendent of Hotels for the C.P. Railway Co. to visit the lake and see if they would supply a free site for such a camp. (Nothing developed from this proposal.)

Archie Dorsey was the Constable for the next three years.

1929

Reeve - A.M. Campbell
Councillors - Dr. S. Archibald and F.E. McLeod

The Village of Gull Lake agreed to provide, free of charge, seven lots to the Department of Public Works. These lots would be included in a proposed Public Park to be established in the Village by the Provincial Government.

This would be the first Provincial Park to be built in the province of Alberta. (We are now hoping to lease or buy this park back from the Provincial Government.)

1930

Reeve - A.M. Campbell
Councillors - Dr. S. Archibald and F.E. McLeod

Council granted permission to L. Sandbrook, Geo. Fernie, O. Woellner and J. MacDonald to run a restaurant at their several locations during the coming summer.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Edmonton requesting a weed killer for eradication of the weeds on the beach. The Council paid $33.25 for this weed killer and then paid O. Woellner $9.00 for sprinkling the weeds. A special meeting was held in July to approve an offer from the Provincial Government to build a road through the Village. The Government would pay half the cost of this road and maintenance.

1931

Reeve - A.M. Campbell
Councillors - Dr. S. Archibald and F.E. McLeod

After the death of N.E. Carruthers, A. Belcher was appointed as Auditor. (He held this position for two years.)

The Council paid Mrs. Hazelwood $21.75 costs for entertaining Premier Brownlee.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Park Board and ask permission to sell concessions in the park and in front of the pier during the Wrigley Sports Day.

More lots were offered for sale through the Tax Recovery Act. These lots had reserve bids ranging from $30.00 to $500.00 depending on size and location.

Council received a petition from the property owners of the Glen Eden Subdivision. Asking to be included within the Village of Gull Lake. Council agreed the motion was passed and the Village boundaries were extended.

Council passed a building restriction stating that no dwelling could be erected within the Village limits that cost less than $600.00, and that a permit costing 25 cents must be obtained first. This restriction was rescinded the following year since the Village Act did not give Council the power to pass building restrictions.

Herbert F. Binning was Constable this year for a salary of $75.00 per month.

1932

Reeve - A.M. Campbell

Councillors - Dr. S. Archibald and F.E. McLeod (This was Mr. Campbell's last year on Council after thirteen years!)

Two big event held each summer. The Gull Lake Sport Committee sponsored the Wrigley Swim Meet and the Gull Lake Aquatic Club sponsored the yearly Regatta. Both events were very popular with the residents but usually ended with a deficit which the Council would grant funds to cover. Mr.B.F.Barr was hired as Constable and General Utility Man this year.(and each year to follow until 1939.)

1933

Reeve - F.E. McLeod

Councillors - Dr. W.T. Hynes and Thos. Wilkes

Jesse Fraser was appointed Auditor at a set fee of $15.00 per year. (He served as Auditor for thirteen years, until 1946, when this job was turned over to a chartered accounting firm.)

Council passed a bylaw providing for the licensing of hawkers and peddlers carrying on business in the Village of Gull Lake. A second bylaw was passed which controlled the production and sale of milk and cream within the Village.

Council was still concerned with the job of eradicating the weeds from the beach. It was decided to plough up the beach in the fall with the hope that the frost would kill the roots of the weeds.

1934

Reeve - F.E.McLeod

Councillors - Dr. W.T. Hynes and Thos. Wilkes

Council amended the bylaw regarding the production and sale of milk stating that T.B. tests were required for all cows from whom milk was sold to lake residents.

Council passed a bylaw regulating the disposal of garbage and refuse. Garbage cans were required for all cottages for dry garbage and waste water and liquid refuse was to be poured into a hole in the ground. Any householder found guilty of an infraction of this bylaw was liable to a $5.00 fine.

Twenty-one ratepayers attended the annual meeting held in Fernie's Hall. They made the following three recommendations to Council: 1. necessity of a watchman during the winter months 2. financial statements should be sent out with the tax notices rather than distributed to the cottages by the policeman 3. notices should be put in each cottage re: bonfire safety precautions.

1935

Reeve - Dr. W.T. Hynes

Councillors - John Gilmour and J.S. McCormick

Thos. Lorimer was hired as a caretaker for the Village for the fall and winter months at a salary of $l5.00 per month. Council paid $30.00 to The Edmonton Journal to advertise in a special summer recreational paper to be distributed to regular subscribers and various agencies throughout the U.S.A. and Eastern Canada. It was hoped that this special paper would result in an increase of tourist traffic in Western Canada.

Twenty-five ratepayers were present at the annual meeting in Fernie's Hall. Names mentioned in the minutes were: Dr. Roxburgh, Dr. C. Johnson, Mrs. C.A. Stuart, Mr. W.L. Elliott, Mr. & Mrs. Kinnaird, Dr. & Mrs. J.W. Richardson, and Mr. Gordon Lee.

The possibility of interesting Calgary Power Company in extending their power line from Bentley was discussed. The Secretary was asked to write to Calgary Power for information.

Due to Dr. Hynes' illness, Councillor McCormick became Deputy Reeve for the remainder of the term.

1936

Reeve - Dr. W.T. Hynes
Councillors - David Haw and Leban Sandbrook

Only twelve ratepayers attended the annual meeting in Fernie's Hall. Names in the minutes were Cecil Sutherland, W.L. Elliott and G.M. Fraser.

The matter of electric lights for the Village was discussed. Eighteen ratepayers returned the circular letter sent out by the Secretary. Thirteen expressed a willingness to install lights and five were not interested. Since Calgary Power stated 110 subscribers would be needed, no action was taken.

The ratepayers suggested a walk be built on the south side of the road along the lake.

It was also suggested that an extra man be hired during July and August to keep the beach cleaned of dead fish and weeds.

Council decided to spend an extra $50.00 on radio advertising of the lake, stressing the new Lacombe Golf Course as an extra attraction.

1937

Reeve - Dr. W.T. Hynes
Councillors - Percy C. Owen and Thos. Wilkes

Eleven ratepayers attended the annual meeting in Fernie's Hall. They asked the incoming council to approach the Provincial Parks Board and urge them to supply a caretaker for the park.

Mr. Brewer addressed this meeting and discussed the possibility of diverting the Blindman River into Gull Lake during the spring run-off. (What vision! Why did it take 45 years for any action?)

1938

Reeve - Dr. W.T. Hynes
Councillors - Percy Owen and Thos. Wilkes

Provincial Parks Board agreed to pay $l5.00 per month for the two summer months towards the salary of the Village caretaker and policeman.

The ratepayers' meeting was thrown open for discussion of ways to improve conditions at the lake. Several requests were made to widen the road from McLeod's corner to Ebeling's store. In the end, P.W. Pratt's motion was passed that the road not be widened, only trees removed which were considered dangerous.

The weed problem was discussed and Council told the meeting that the cost of eradicating the weeds would be prohibitive.

Mr. Cutler addressed the ratepayers meeting and, with the aid of a chart, discussed the possibility of diverting the east branch of the Blindman River into the north end of Gull Lake.

The ratepayers decided that the Government should be asked not to demolish the old pier until the possibility of raising the water level in the lake was determined.

1939

Reeve - Thomas Lorimer

Councillors - Mrs. Jean McLeod (1st woman) and James A. Whistlecroft

Council purchased two acres of land from John Hug adjoining the Village on the east. The north acre to be used as a nuisance ground (garbage dump), and the south acre to be sold to John McGeachy, the Village policeman and general service man. Mr. McGeachy had been hired for a full year at a salary of $350.00 per year.

The ratepayers' meeting was held at Sandbrook's Store with fifty people present (a record attendance). G.M. Fraser and G. Weir moved a resolution that the acre of land purchased from J. Hug for a nuisance ground be disposed of and that another lot of land be acquired further removed from the Village to be used for a nuisance ground.

Mr. Cutler gave a lengthy report on efforts to establish the possibility of diverting the Blindman River into the lake but he was rather pessimistic as to the success of the project.

The Council was again asked to protest to the Government against any further demolition of the pier.

1940

Mayor - T.M. Lorimer (note change of title)

Councillors - Mrs. Jean McLeod and J.A. Whistlecroft

By this time, the yearly estimate of Village expenses had doubled, but so had the number of ratepayers. The mill rate was still 20 mills with an additional 2.5 mills for Social Service Tax.

The Secretary was instructed to enclose a letter with the tax notices asking property owners to make this a year to clean up and improve the appearance of the Village by repairing or removing old fences and applying much needed paint.

A meeting of the Calgary Gull Lake Ratepayers' Association was held in Calgary in May. They recommended that the Council spend $600.00 on improving the beach, $50.00 for advertising and $5.00 to Mrs. G. Fernie for keeping a visitors' book.

Council agreed to rent a cottage acquired by the Village under the Tax Recovery Act for the sum of $30.00 per month.

A peddler's license for a butcher cost $l0.00. If the license was to be extended to include peddling bread and pastry an extra $2.00 was charged.

Nineteen ratepayers attended the annual meeting at Sandbrook's store. Councillor Lorimer reported on his efforts to comply with the Health Act of the Province, stressing the need to stop the unsanitary practice of distributing meats, bread and other foods and collecting dirty laundry, which was being gathered and hauled in the same conveyances.

A lengthy discussion took place relative to the building of a community hall and as to how funds for such a building could be raised. (Another forty year project!)

Mr. McGeachy was hired as Constable but just for a two month period at a salary $75.00 per month.

1941

Mayor - T. Lorimer

Councillors - Fred R. Meridith and J.A. Whistlecroft

The Secretary was instructed to write the Parks Board and to suggest to them that as the Village had donated a large portion of the land that made up the Provincial Park, and that as it was being rumoured that they proposed disposing of this area; it would be desirable to have the park turned over to the Village for the use of the public or in any event to give the Village the first offer to buy this land. Several lots were offered for sale under the Tax Recovery Act. These lots had reserve bids put on them by the Council which ranged from $250.00 to $2,000.00.

Twenty-two ratepayers attended the annual meeting which was held in the Aquatic Club Hall. Mrs. A.G. Wilson expressed the thought that the children should be taught to swim under an instructor, but no action was taken.

G. Weir and V. Horner moved a resolution that a letter be sent the Government protesting against the unsightly and dangerous condition in which the pier had been left, and to ask them to finish the job of removing it.

J. S. McCormick and L. Campbell moved a resolution that the incoming council hold an early meeting to discuss the matter of building a new hall.

T.M. Lorimer was appointed Postmaster at Gull Lake on a full-time basis.

Council decided to have four diving rafts and six benches built for next summer. It was also decided to purchase three lifebuoys and to have boxes built for them to be stored on the beach. Also two small slides were to be purchased for the beach.

P. A. Damant was hired as Constable and Utility Man. (He held this position until the end of the summer of 1947.)

1942

Mayor - T.M. Lorimer

Councillors - F.R. Meridith and J.A. Whistlecroft

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Provincial Parks Board asking them to clear up the material from the demolished pier. It was suggested that the sheet iron and bolts in the rubble might be salvaged for the war effort.

Nineteen ratepayers attended the annual meeting in Sandbrook's Hall. The matter of a hall was then discussed. It was reported that the probable cost of a new hall would be $3,500.00 which was prohibitive. Mr. Sandbrook offered to sell his hall to the Village for $400.00.

In September, the Council purchased L. Sandbrook's hall and 50 ft. of property for $580.00.

Authorization was also given to have six new rafts made and six new benches.

Council instructed the Secretary to have 250 notices printed on cardboard and tacked up in all toilets in the Village. These notices read as follows: "The Council recommends that cottage owners or renters sprinkle periodically, one-half tin of lye in the toilet and then pour in two pails of water. A much more sanitary condition will result and offending odours destroyed."

1943

Mayor - T. Lorimer

Councillors - F.R. Meridith and J.A. Whistlecroft

The Secretary was instructed to place $800.00 fire insurance on the newly acquired hall. He was also instructed to prepare a circular letter to be distributed to the cottages, stating that the hall was available for use by them on application to the Mayor. Chairs and a ping pong table were purchased from L. Sandbrook for the hall. Paint and oil were bought for painting the front of the Village Hall.

Only five ratepayers attended the annual meeting in the Village Hall. It was suggested that a person be hired for the next summer to act as an instructor for the children and a supervisor for the hall.

Council was asked to purchase the piano in the hall for $50.00 and to make improvements to the hall as finances would permit.

1944

Mayor - T.Lorimer

Councillors - F.R. Meridith and J.A. Whistlecroft

Council hired Miss Cane for two weeks in July at $40.00 to organize the children into play groups and put the tennis court in condition for play.

Twenty people attended the annual meeting at the Village Hall. P.W. Pratt stated that the discing of the beach was a detriment to weeds but it loosened up the sand and allowed it to drift into ridges along the beach, thus making sand drifting more of a menace than the weeds.

Mayor Lorimer told the meeting that dry garbage would be picked up twice a week, but the Scavenger was not equipped to handle wet garbage.

1945

Mayor - Ole Boode

Councillors - A.E. Eastes and W.R. May

D. F. Chisholm, the Secretary-Treasurer, resigned this June and Mr. J.A. McKinley of Lacombe was appointed to this position for the remainder of this year and for the next year.

A new tax bylaw was passed which authorized a levy of 50 mills. This consisted of 29 mills for general purposes and 21 mills for school requisition.

The Secretary was instructed to contact the Lacombe Creamery to ascertain what arrangements could be made to have a supply of pasteurized milk and cream available for lake residents during July and August.

Twenty-eight ratepayers attended the annual meeting in the Village Hall. The question of weeds on the beach was discussed, and the value of discing was debated. Council explained that the expense of doing the whole beach in any one year was prohibitive, but it would be feasible to alternate the job over future years.

The Secretary was instructed to ascertain the ownership of the beach. This question had been taken up previously with the Dominion and Provincial Governments but no satisfaction had been obtained.

Council instructed the Secretary to place $2,000.00 fire insurance on the Village Hall and $300.00 on the contents.

1946

Mayor - A.M. Frizzell

Councillors - M.G. Cruikshank and H.E. Wilson

Council decided to build a number of floating rafts, equipped with diving boards, to be anchored at intervals along the beach, at an approximate cost of $500.00. Cement blocks would be sunk to hold the rafts in position.

Council also decided to build twelve more benches, to be placed along the beach.

The Secretary was ordered to obtain estimates of the cost of altering the hall to include two screened and shuttered windows on the end facing the lake.

Eighteen ratepayers attended the annual meeting in the Village Hall. After a general discussion, the following recommendations were given to Council: 1. Signs be placed on roadways to the beach prohibiting cars from driving on the beach. 2. A local resident be appointed as caretaker during the winter months. This caretaker would make periodical inspections of all cottages and advise owners of any damage or evidence of break-ins 3. A letter be written to the Provincial Government asking them to provide picnic facilities in the park.

Council instructed the Secretary to write a letter to all property owners outlining the following: 1. Ratepayers were obligated to supply a pit for wet garbage. 2. Ratepayers could obtain a weekly inspection of their property by the Village caretaker for the sum of $2.00 per month for the seven months commencing Oct. 1st. 3. That odd jobs such as brushing, clearing, shingling and minor repairs, digging pits, etc. could be done by Walter Fernie at reasonable prices.

1947

Mayor - M.G. Cruikshank

Councillors - I.A. Amundson and Dr. George C. Haworth

The Secretary Treasurer, J.A. McKinley, resigned this year and Tom Jackson of Lacombe was hired at a salary of $250.00 per year. (This salary was increased to $300.00 per year in 1948. Mr. Jackson held this position for seventeen years.)

Council asked the Secretary to write an article for publication in The Lacombe Globe inviting summer residents of the Village to form a Sports or Social Club and make more use of the hall.

Forty ratepayers attended the Annual Meeting this year. Names in the minutes were as follows: Mr. & Mrs. I.A. Amundson, Mr. H.L. Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cristall, Mr. & Mrs. T. Cristall, Mr. P.S. Cull, Mrs. R.W. Dalgleish, Mr. E. Fernie, Mrs. G. Fernie, Mr. & Mrs. Ian Fraser, Mr. A.M. Frizzell, Mr. L.M. Gilmour, Dr. G.C. Haworth, Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Helman, Mr. R.H. Kelly, Judge A.M. McDonald, Mrs. G.H. McBroom, Mr. V.C. Morrison, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Peacock, Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Potter, Mr. & Mrs. P.W. Pratt, Rev. D. Powell, Dr. & Mrs. J.W. Richardson, Mrs. C.A. Stuart, Mr. G. Syfchuk, Mr. W. Weir, Mr. & Mrs. L.R. Williams, and Mrs. O. Woellner.

A discussion took place regarding electrification of the Village. The new Council was asked to investigate costs.

The ratepayers expressed concern regarding the dangerous and poor conditions of the roads in the Village, and the road from Lacombe to Gull Lake.

The Council was urged to try for improvements.

Objection to the alleged nuisance created by the riding of horses was voiced by a number of ratepayers.

1948

Mayor - M.G. Cruikshank

Councillors - Ingwald A. Amundson and Dr. George Haworth

On August 14, 1948 the first election for Council was held. Prior to this date, the Council was always elected by acclamation. If more than three people were nominated for Council, the extra one or two people would withdraw their names.

Reg. McVittie was hired this year as Constable and Utility Man. Due to the unusual poor conditions caused by excessive moisture, a second man was hired to assist Mr. McVittie.

In June of this year, Council received an application from the Lacombe Creamery for a license to sell milk and milk products in the Village of Gull Lake during the summer months.

Council set the rate of pay for casual labor to be 44 cents per hour for men and 20 cents per hour for a team.

Forty-five ratepayers attended the annual meeting in the Village Hall. The ratepayers were told that Council was still negotiating with Calgary Power Co. about Village electrification.

The street from Broadway to Ebeling's had been improved by the removal of several trees but it was difficult to accomplish more without spending a great deal of money or trespassing on private property.

1949 - 1974 - LOST

The minutes for this period have been LOST. If you find them in your attic or basement, please return them to the Village Office or the Secretary - Treasurer.

Some of the Councillors during this period of time were: Lawrence Campbell of Lacombe, Florence Clark of Edmonton, Percy Fordham of Lacombe, H.C. Hilton of Calgary, Wilson Keith of Calgary, Gordon McGachie of Calgary, George McTaggart of Lacombe, R.W. Pearson of Edmonton, Jim Purdy of Calgary, John Ralston of Gull Lake, G.C. Stuart of Calgary, Jack Wilders of Ponoka, H.S. Young of Calgary.

The following excerpts are from the yearly Mayor's Report.

1963

Mayor - G.C.Stuart

Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Former Mayor, Jack Ralston, resigned in April of this year because of ill health. He had served on the Council for eleven years.

Village street lighting was continued during the winter months since there were more permanent residents.

Routine police checks of the Village were made by the Lacombe police force.

Brian Connery was hired from May to September to handle the day to day operation of the Village and to supervise the activities for the children.

Council adopted a policy of not renting the Hall for public dances, but it was available to the young people with a juke-box and table tennis equipment available.

Weekly movies were shown on Thursday nights.

A length of pier was constructed for the Village swimming lessons which were conducted by Mrs. Corry and her daughter.

Council met with Premier Manning to discuss the problem of the lake level.

1965
Mayor - G.C. Stuart
Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Brian Connery returned as Village supervisor. His duties included recreation director, swimming instructor, beach maintenance, road repair, garbage collection, and policing. (What a busy man!)

Wet spring caused many problems with the beach and drainage.

An adult square dance was held with Mayor Stuart as caller.

Meeting with the Premier re. lake level resulted in aerial mapping of the north end of the lake to study actual run off from Lloyd Creek.

Mill rate was 53, however only 17 mills for Village use. This was up 10 mills from previous years to pay for increased supervision and recreation facilities. In actual fact, an increase of approximately $8.00 per cottage.

Death of Tom Jackson, who served as Secretary-Treasurer for seventeen years. He was replaced by John Olthuis.

1966
Mayor - G.C. Stuart
Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Brian Connery rehired as Village supervisor and recreation director.

Alberta Government Telephones ran an underground line at rear of cottages to provide better service to ratepayers.

One cottage lost due to fire. Council recommended all cottages equip themselves with a fire extinguisher.

Council found the Provincial Government "less than enthusiastic" to pursue the matter of the lake level.

1967
Mayor - G.C. Stuart
Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Brian Connery spent May and early June at the lake setting up the summer program, but he was unable to stay all summer. Fred Moriarty was hired to complete the summer as Village supervisor and recreation director.

Policing of the Village was handled this year by the R.C.M.P. who had a man stationed at the Provincial Park.

Problems discussed at the annual meeting were the sale of firecrackers within the Village and the "hives" arising out of swimming in the lake.

1968

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Fred Moriarty rehired as Village supervisor and recreation director for this year and next year.

R.C.M.P. to use radar to enforce the Village speed limit.

One section of the lake road oiled as an experiment to see if it will help control dust.

Mr. Taylor not planning to return next summer with his horse rentals.

1970

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

Jim Jardine hired as recreation director and Village supervisor. He had this position for the next three years.

There were two locations within the Village this summer where horses could be rented.

At the annual meeting the Mayor gave a detailed presentation on the progress with the lake level.

1971

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

John Olthuis resigned as Secretary-Treasurer and Peter Grant was hired for this position.

Government prepared to go ahead with the scheme to maintain and ultimately raise the lake level.

Equipment shed built on hall property.

Mill rate set at 70 mills.

1972

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - J. Halpin and H.S. Young

The Village acquired, under lease, that portion of the Provincial Park area on the lake front side. This area will be closed as a public campground. (This area was later used for the Village skating rink.)

The Village acquired two lots adjacent to the property where the hall is located. A water well was on one of the lots, so the hall could now have running water.

The Village garbage dump to be closed this year. Village hopes to make an arrangement with the County of Lacombe for a new dump.

1973

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - Jack Halpin and Bill Halpen (?)

Brian Harrison hired as recreation supervisor for the summer months.

New dump is located three and a half miles north on the Lincoln Road. Council asked that all garbage be placed in plastic bags and tied to help with handling.

1974

Mayor - G.C. Stuart

Councillors - W. Halpen and ?

Secretary-Treasurer Peter Grant resigned. John Standing hired for this position.

Brian Harrison hired as recreation supervisor again this summer.

Cottagers asked to provide adequate garbage containers to eliminate the problem with dogs and garbage.

Mayor Stuart not to run for office next term. He had served on Council since August 1959, and been Mayor since May 1963.

On August 16, 1974, W. Halpen, T.R. Bowen, and N.J. Halpin were elected to Council for a three-year term under an amendment made in the Municipal Government Act during 1974.

1975

Mayor - W. Halpen

Councillors T.R. Bowen and N.J. Halpin

A new general assessment of property and improvements was carried out this year.

The bill for privy cleanout was $562.00 which covered 122 private toilets and 8 commercial. Council voted to charge the individual property owner for privy cleanout in the future.

The annual meeting was held in the Village Hall on Sat. July 14. A representative from Northwestern Utilities Ltd. was on hand to discuss supplying gas to the Village. A lively discussion took place regarding the condition of the east - end beach. The final decision was to form a committee which would endeavor to find a solution to the problem.

1976

Mayor - W. Halpen

Councillors - T.R. Bowen and E. Nesselbeck

Darlene Moore was hired as recreation director for the summer.

Mr. A. Ebeling was hired as Village foreman. His duties included garbage pickup, patrol of cottages and snow plowing in the winter, and general maintenance throughout the year. He was not responsible for beach maintenance.

The Department of Environment notified Council that the pumping system to control the lake level was now operational. However, due to the lack of run-off this year, they were unable to pump this spring.

The speed bumps which were installed for the trial period during 1975 were installed again this year.

It was decided that the "Beach Committee" formed at the annual meeting in 1975 would be expanded to consider the entire beach.

No annual meeting was held this year since it was not an election year.

1977

Mayor - W. Halpen

Councillors - T.R.Bowen and E. Nesselbeck

Due to numerous problems and complaints, Council voted to cancel the yearly practice of hiring someone to clean-out the out houses in the Village. Residents will be responsible for having their own privies cleaned.

A new approach to the initial cleaning of seaweed and debris took place this year. The Kinsmen's Club of Lacombe carried out the clean-up of the beach in June.

Shelly Hartweel hired as recreation director.

R.C.M.P. of Red Deer set up a program of boat patrol for the lake. Council entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment regarding a drainage project for the Village.

Secretary-Treasurer J. Standing retired this summer. Mr. P. Lavery of Edmonton, who has a home in the Ebeling Subdivision, was hired for this position.

Betty Terisio was hired as maintenance foreman.

The census was taken this November by H. Jeske. The Village of Gull Lake had 47 permanent adult residents and 27 children (22 of school age).

1978

Mayor - Gerry Hepworth

Councillors - Marge Hutchison and Erwin Nesselbeck

Calgary Power's proposal of new mercury vapor lighting system for Village was rejected since costs would be three times the existing cost of street lighting.

Beach clean-up and maintenance done through the S.T.E.P. program (government grants for summer employment)

Shelly Hartwell was hired again this year as recreation director.

A new village office building was purchased this June and set up on the Village property.

Mayor Hepworth's report at the annual meeting stated that the lake level was still dropping in spite of the 1.4 billion gallons of water that had been pumped into the lake. However the Department of Environment was installing a third pump which will increase the efficiency of the project by 65% and hopefully maintain the level of the lake as desired.

Secretary-Treasurer P. Lavery resigned this year and Henri Trottier was hired for this position.

1979

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Hutchison and E. Nesselbeck

Proposed plan of street numbering and naming of avenues and roads was voted upon and carried this spring. Gull Lake residences now had civic addresses.

Judy Ellis of Calgary was hired as recreation director.

Graham Murphy was hired on a full time basis, as required, for the position of Village foreman.

The drainage program was completed at the east end of the Village.

Councillors remuneration for attending meetings was increased from $61.00 to $75.00 per meeting.

1980

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Hutchison and Mike Fenerty.

Colleen Patton of Calgary was hired as recreation director.

Village lighting was improved with new high pressure sodium lights.

Village purchased a new diesel four-wheel drive tractor.

As a special Alberta 75th Anniversary project, it was decided to purchase a sound system for the hall and to sell the old juke box. Also a special party was held in the hall.

Approximately 150 ratepayers attended the annual meeting. They were told that applications for natural gas service to individual properties would be accepted by the Gull Lake Co-Op.

A number of complaints were voiced about weeds, speed bumps, and pot holes.

An election was held on August 16, and the new Council was elected.

New signs were ordered to say Oliver Avenue instead of Street.

1981

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Fenerty and M. Hutchison

Susan Fenerty was hired as recreation director.

The Recreation Board purchased bingo equipment for use in the summer program.

The east end of the beach was seeded with glass to try to help with the problems there.

The road was not put into good repair this summer because the Village was waiting for the expected installation of the gas line.

1982

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Fenerty and M. Hutchison

Secretary-Treasurer H. Trottier resigned his position. The name of the position was changed to Municipal Administrator and Mr. Larry Waud was hired for this position. (He is still with us.)

Lisa Schnell was hired as recreation director.

Ron Kilpatrick hired as Village foreman.

Council authorizesd a consulting firm to proceed with investigations for a new hall, street improvements, and general drainage improvements.

Council authorized the purchase of a newer tractor and garbage truck.

A grant from the Provincial Government helped to upgrade the roads.

1983

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Fenerty and M. Hutchison

Ron Kilpatrick resigned as Village foreman. Mr. Dave Turnbull of Bentley was hired as maintenance supervisor.

Lisa Schnell returned as recreation director.

Prior to the annual meeting, the Building Committee held a meeting to answer questions and explain the plans for building a new hall. The ratepayers directed Council to proceed with the construction of a new hall. The old hall was demolished in the fall of this year.

The Mayor discussed the Lake Stabilization Agreement made with the Provincial Government. The new agreement will include the County of Ponoka and should result in lower costs.

1984

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Fenerty and M. Hutchison

Susan Williams was hired as recreation director.

Date of the official opening of the new hall was July 7, 1984.

The annual meeting was held in the new hall on July 21, 1984. The ratepayers were told that the construction costs had come in under budget.

A vote of thanks was given to the Building Committee for a job well done and special thanks were given to Tom and Marge Hutchison for all their work.

1985

Mayor - G. Hepworth

Councillors - M. Fenerty and M. Hutchison

Janis McGregor was hired as recreation director.

The Recreation Board recommended changing the time of the annual meeting from the evening to the afternoon.

A new video recorder/projector was installed in the hall.

The Village census was completed by S. Sutherland and G. Connell with the count of permanent residents at 85 people.

Remuneration to Council members increased to $125.00 per meeting.

1986

Mayor - Mike Fenerty

Councillors - Ken Fargey and Olive Parry

Janis McGregor returned as the recreation director this summer.

Elections were held this summer with six candidates running for Council. Both Gerry Hepworth and Marjory Hutchison stepped down this year after eight years in office.

Council contacted the Department of Environment to negotiate a long-term agreement regarding lake stabilization.

As a result of the hard work and contributions of the Gull Lake Community League, the Half Century Club, and the Ladies Club, a number or of improvements and additions were made to the hall.

1987

Mayor - Mike Fenerty
Councillors - Ken Fargey and Lyle Kilpatrick

A by-election was held this summer due to the fact that Councillor Olive Parry was moving away from the Lake.

Cheryl Robson was hired as the recreation director.

A new experiment was being conducted on the east beach. Beach clean - up material was being used to fill low areas. This seemed to improve the condition of the beach.

The Lake road finally has a good surface and didn't need oiling this year.

The annual meeting was held July 18, 1987. The Mayor's report discussed the Lake stabilization, the proposed Provincial Park development which will abut the west boundary of the Village, and the increased cost for garbage disposal.

Council asked for a committee to plan and organize a 75th Anniversary Celebration for 1988 for the Summer Village of Gull Lake. The following persons volunteered to serve on this committee: Marjorie Campbell , John Carruthers , Gerry Hepworth

1988

Mayor - Mike Fenerty
Councillors - Ken Fargey and Lyle Kilpatrick

March 25, 1988 - 75 years since the official incorporation of the Village of Gull Lake. The first summer village in the Province of Alberta to be incorporated.

August 12, 13 and l4, 1988 - Official Celebration Weekend for the 75th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Summer Village of Gull Lake.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

LAKE VIEW HOTEL

From the Western Globe, Lacombe, July 9, 1913

Lake View Hotel, Gull Lake's fine new summer hotel, is now open to the public. Manager George Kirby, well known throughout the west as a thorough hotel man, arrived from Edmonton last week and by dint of hard work has everything in shape for the accommodation of tourists. The new hotel is a splendid three-story structure, situated on the south beach, and from the balconies of which is obtained a splendid view of the whole lake. It is furnished throughout in splendid style, and is semi-modern. Forty large airy bedrooms, many of them facing the lake, have been furnished in a manner that will please the most fastidious holiday tourist, who is looking for a place to pass the hot summer days in comfort. Each story of the building has a large open balcony overlooking the lake.

The whole front of the lower story is occupied by the rotunda, which is furnished with large easy chairs, settees, writing table, etc., and as a safeguard against chilly evenings, an open fireplace has been provided. The front of the rotunda facing the lake is entirely of glass, affording a grand view of the lake and surrounding country.

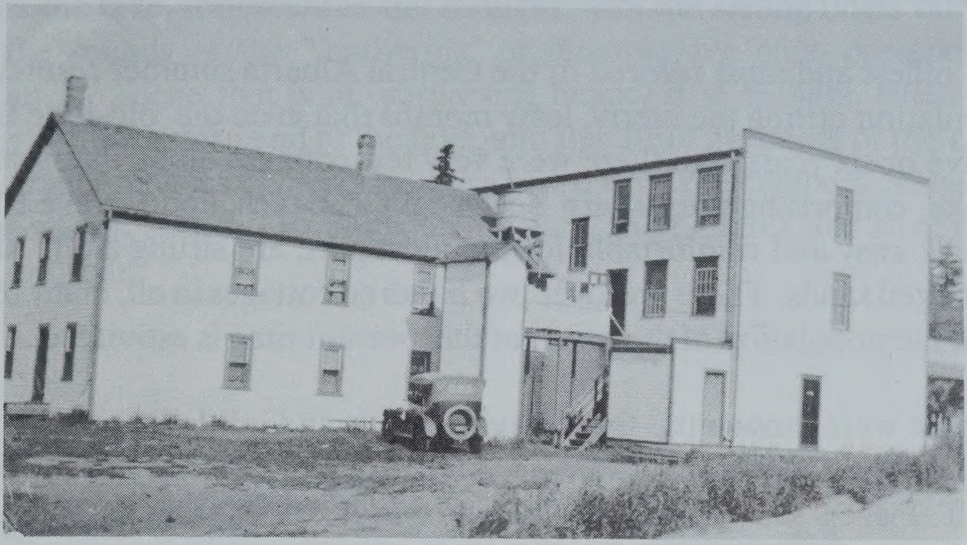
The dining room is situated on the west side of the building and is large and roomy, and furnished in a strictly up-to-date style. It is bright and cool, and accommodates about fifty guests.

The entire building is lighted with gas, and water is laid to every flat. As soon as possible water will be laid to every room. The water supply is obtained from a deep well and forced through the building by means of a standpipe.

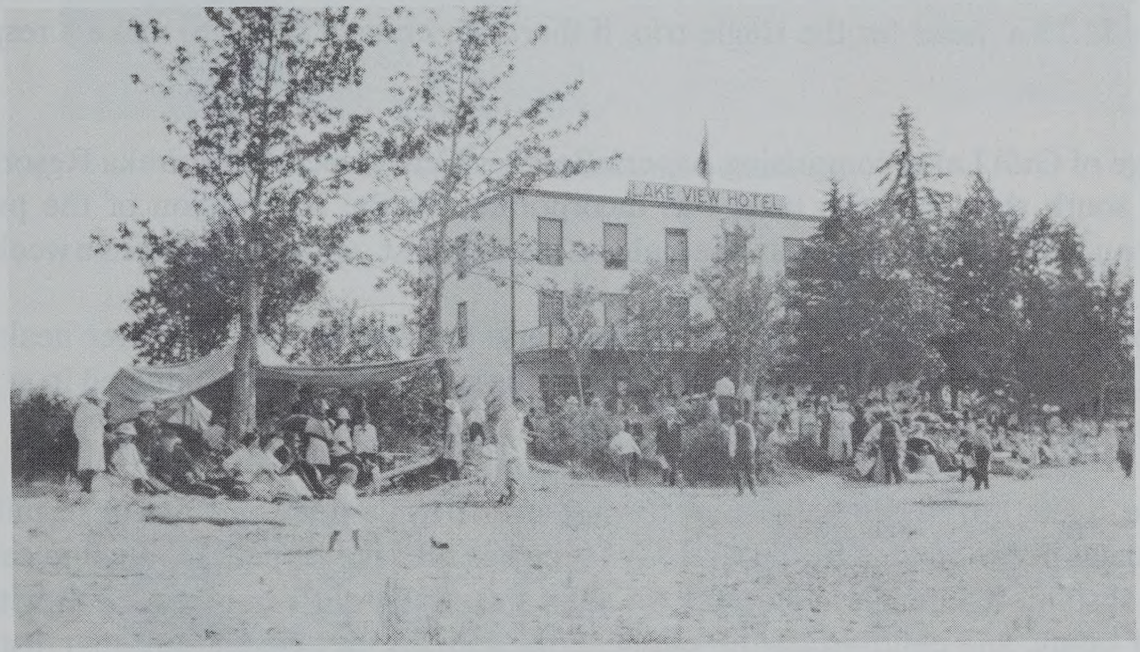
Manager Kirby will see that the cuisine is all that can be desired, and to this end has secured the services of an experienced chef and able staff of assistants.

The management has also completed arrangements for the entertainment of visitors. Gasoline launches, sailboats and rowboats are at the disposal of guests, while those who desire motoring will find their wants in this line supplied with first class cars.

Anyone looking for a delightful place at which to spend the hot summer days in comfort, can do no better than by coming to Gull Lake. Here they will find the best facilities for boating, bathing, and in the near future a tennis court and golf links will be provided. The tourist will also find that the cost of the holiday will be less than at any other summer resort in the west which offer fewer enjoyments.



Picture showing Wieses' 13 room Lakeview Hotel behind the new 3 storey LakeView Hotel.



Front View of LakeView Hotel.

PLEASURE SEEKERS AT GULL LAKE

From The Western Globe, Lacombe, July 9, 1913

Gull Lake, the oldest and most favored of the Central Alberta summer resorts, is growing so rapidly in population during the merry, leafy months that even the old-time frequenters are astonished. Five or six years ago there were very few cottages along the fashionable south shore of the lake, comprising the Aspern Beach, Weis' Beach, and Eureka Resort, but now residences, small cosy and comfortable for the most part, are strung along the four or five miles of tree-fringed sands. There are over two hundred cottages in all, many of them erected this season, and the population of the resort at the present time is estimated at two thousand.

Edmonton people were among the first to evince faith in Gull Lake as a summer resort by buying lots and building cottages. E.C. Emery, of the law firm of Emery, Newell, Ford, Boston and Mount: F.T. Fisher, secretary of the board of trade; Postmaster A.E. May, and others, have journeyed to the lake with their families every year for eight years, and Justice Stuart, of Calgary, was among the first to follow their example. At that time fifty-foot lots could be bought at the Lacombe end of the lake for a mere song; today, including cottages, they are worth all the way up to two thousand dollars, and very few to be had at that.

The east shore of the lake is about nine miles from Lacombe and autos ply between the two places for $1.25 a head for the single trip, if there are enough heads to make a respectable showing.

The village of Gull Lake, comprising Aspern Beach, Weis' Beach and Eureka Resort, on the east and south shore of the lake, was incorporated at the last session of the provincial legislature, and the first election is to be held on the 19th inst., with nominations a week earlier.

It is proposed, after the election, to make sanitary regulations for the better health of the residents, and it is likely that driving teams along the sands, frequently indulged in at present, will be prohibited.

Gull Lake, it may not be generally known, is just over 20 miles long, and five or six miles wide, and is a magnificent body of fresh water. What makes the lake appeal so much to campers is that it is absolutely safe for children. An adult may wade out a hundred yards with every degree of safety, and children can be safely allowed to wander out for half that distance. A delightful sandy beach about twenty yards wide surrounds the lake, and children clad in summery garments or bathing suits, like nothing better than to take a bucket and wooden spade and fashion the sand castles that are the joy of childhood.

There are a large number of rowboats and canoes, half-a- dozen gasoline launches, and several sailboats, all privately owned. The Lake View Hotel Company proposed to install a number of rowboats and one gasoline launch for the use of excursionists at an early date.

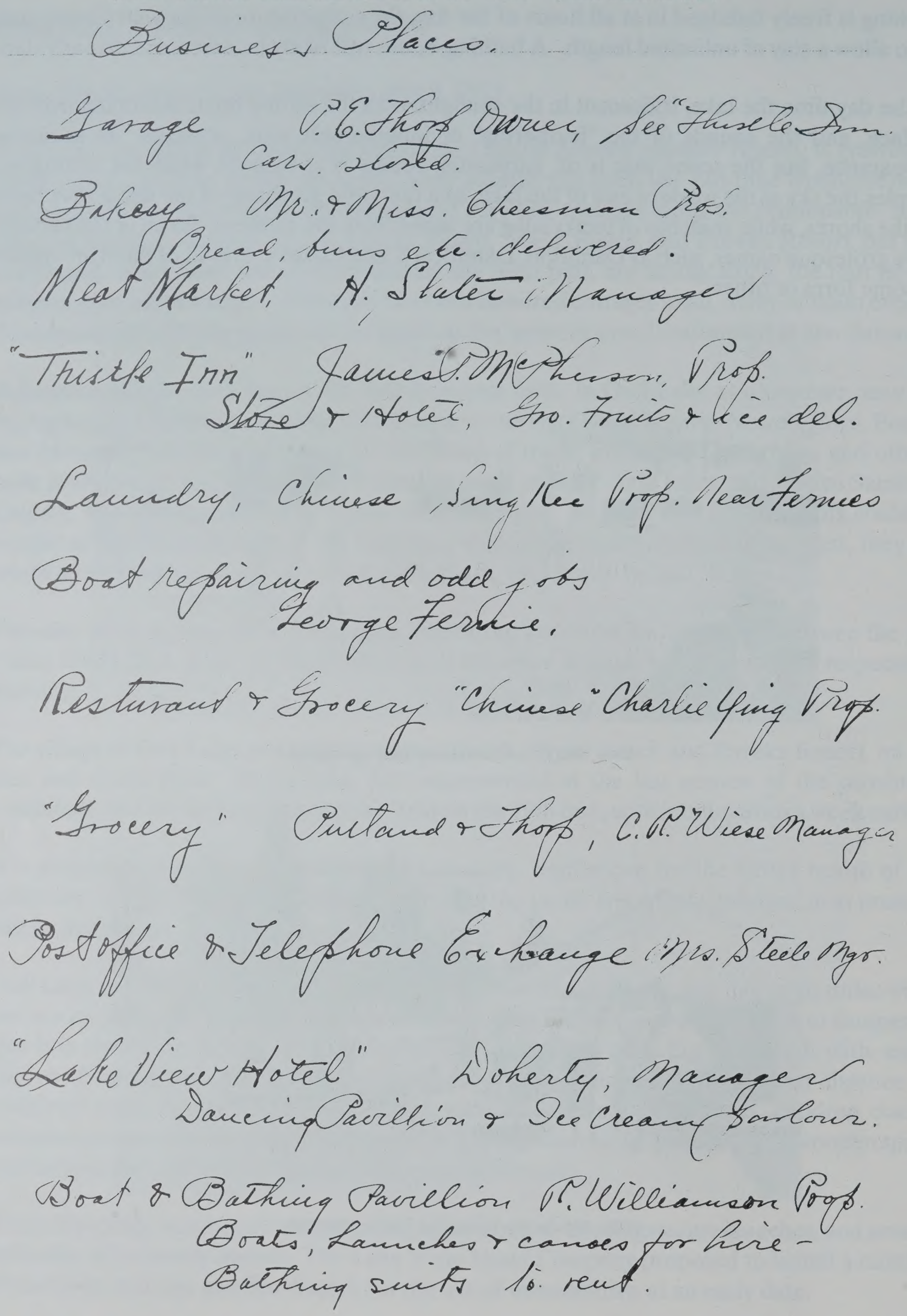
Bathing is freely indulged in at all hours of the day, the temperature of the water being such as to allow a stay of unlimited length. A bathing-house will likely be erected at an early date.

In the day time the lake, iridescent in the sunlight, with the sailing boats skimming over the surface, and the sounds of the "feathering" of innumerable oars, presents an attractive appearance, but the scene that is of surpassing beauty is at twilight, when the setting sun purples the sky at the western end of the lake, and the fitful gleaming of the camp fires lights up the shores, while snatches of merry song are heard from the campers. Some of the cottages have grotesque names, such as Damifino, Damificare, and Laffalot, and all of them are named in some form or other.

Early 1900's. Gull Lake draws many vacationers.

1923 - Popular way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

1916 - FROM THE REGISTER OF THE "THISTLE INN".



Business Places.

Garage P. E. Thorp Owner, See "Thistle Inn.
Cars stored.

Bakery Mr. & Miss. Cheesman Pros.
Bread, buns etc. delivered.

Meat Market, H. Slater Manager

"Thistle Inn" James P. McPherson, Prop.
Store & Hotel, Gro. Fruits & ice del.

Laundry, Chinese, Sing Kee Prop. Near Fernies

Boat repairing and odd jobs
George Fernie.

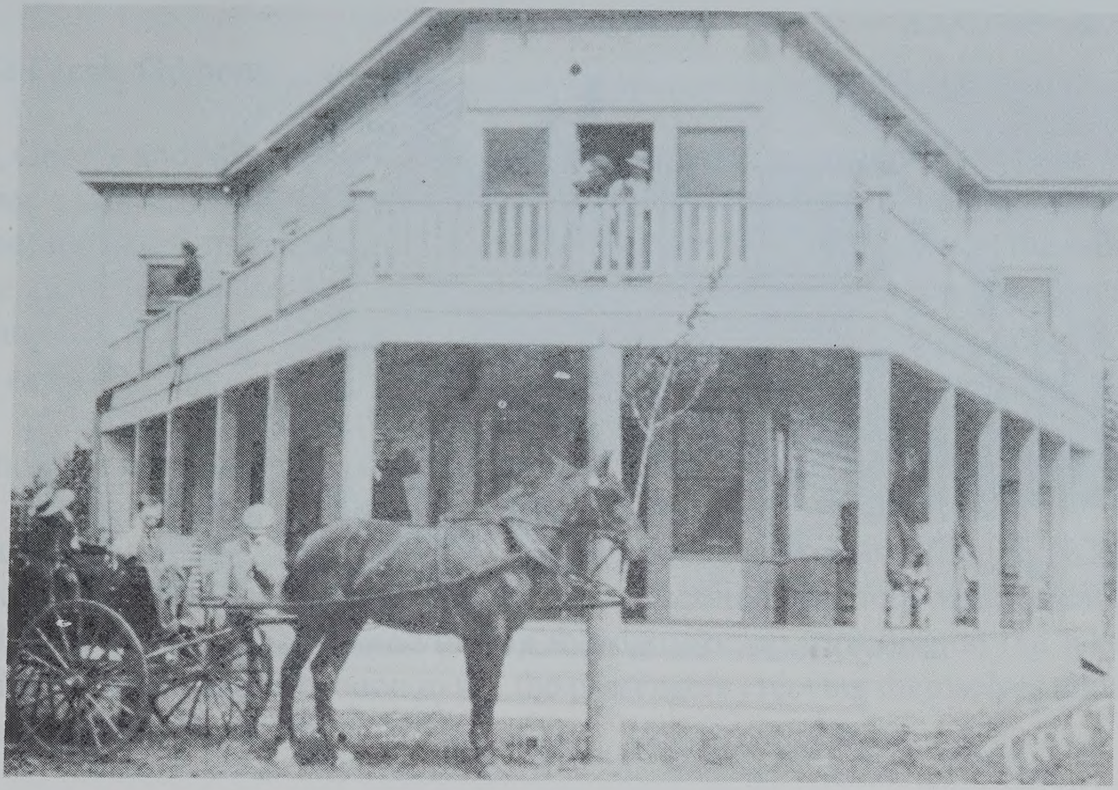
Resturant & Grocery "Chinese" Charlie Ying Prop.

"Grocery" Rutland & Thorp, C. R. Wiese Manager

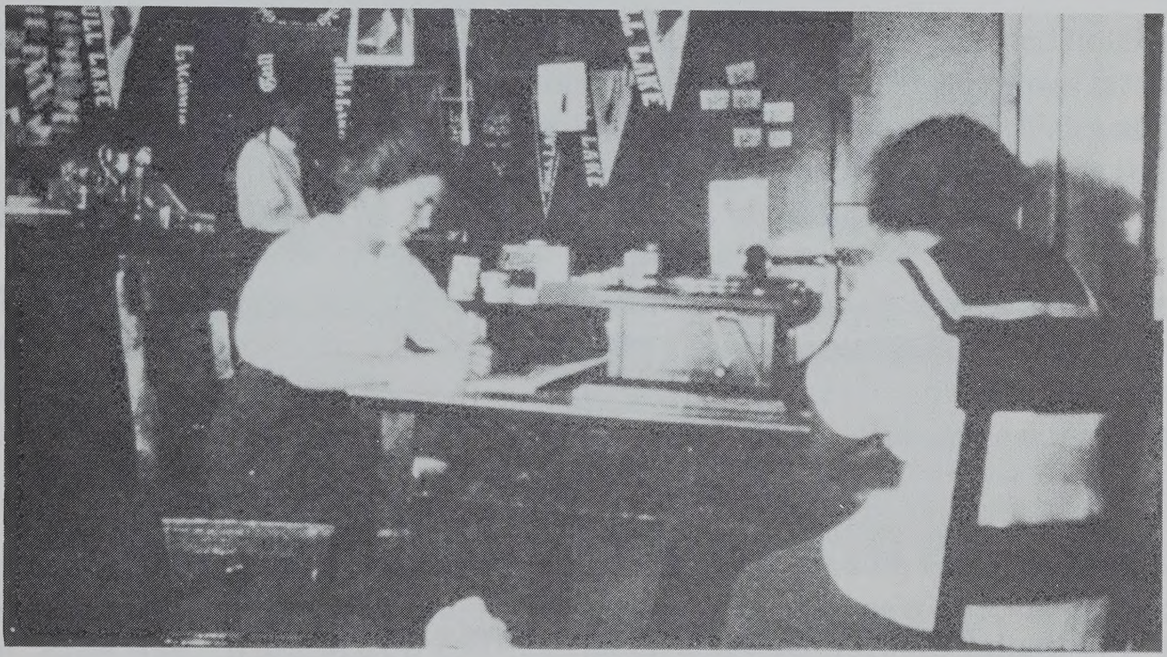
Postoffice & Telephone Exchange Mrs. Steele Mgr.

"Lake View Hotel" Doherty, Manager
Dancing Pavillion & Ice Cream Parlour.

Boat & Bathing Pavillion R. Williamson Prop.
Boats, Launches & canoes for hire -
Bathing suits to rent.



Thistle Inn, the second hotel at Gull Lake.



Lobbies at both hotels provided phonograph music for guests, writing tables and sales counters with post cards, magazines and pennants.

LakeView Hotel was a popular attraction for lake visitors and residents.

Williamson's Boat and Bathing Pavillion, located in front of the hotel.

EARLY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

By Jessie Fernie Gibbons

By 1913, George and Mrs. Dohorty from Lacombe were the managers of the Lake View Hotel. There was a dance hall to the east of the Hotel and bath houses and a pier. In the 1920's, I remember riding down with my father on the dray wagon to pick up guests at the railway station and take them to the hotel. As a child, I was just amazed at all the people and activity. Everything was booming after W.W.I. especially on weekends. Some nights the hotel was filled to capacity and the Doherty's often gave up their beds to people who needed overnight lodging. Sometimes people were bedded down in the hallway. During torrential rains many people became stranded as the Gull Lake-Lacombe road became almost impassable.

The pier in front of the Lake View Hotel was where the large boat called the Kangaroo tied up to pick up or let off passengers. It was often decorated with red, white and blue bunting and had an orchestra which played during the sight-seeing trips around the lake. It was a beautiful sight in the late afternoon to see the passengers enjoying themselves and to hear the music drifting over the water.

The people crowded on the pier on Sunday afternoons to watch the sailboats and activity on the water. A section of the pier gave way and dumped many people into the water. It never was rebuilt. As the economy declined and the lake receded, people didn't patronize the hotel and it was torn down about 1926 or 1927.

In 1912 or 1913, James McPherson built the Thistle Inn. It was a three-sided hotel about two blocks west of us with a stable to the east end of the property. The hotel was far in advance for its time with an open air dance floor on the top story, the perimeter of which was decorated with tree planters and flower boxes. Later a covered dance hall was built along the east side of the hotel.

In the 1920's, Mrs. MacDonald, and her daughter Marie, bought the Thistle Inn. They brought their talented dance troop from Calgary and put on concerts and gave dancing lessons. They had two outstanding dancers. Georgina Playfair was one of the girls, but I can't remember the other one. Dances were still being held in the dance hall but the roof was leaking so the people had to dance around the puddles.

About 1926, young people from the lake and Lacombe talked to my father about the need for another dance hall, so my father build a 24 foot by 70 foot hall next door to our cottage and called it "Rose Hall". It was lit with Coleman lamps which didn't prove satisfactory. Dad then wired all the buildings and put in a Lister light plant. How we enjoyed that light!

Our first orchestra was from Lacombe consisting of Jack Halpin, Lawrence and Kathleen Campbell, and Ritchie Kanngiesser. Other orchestras were Len Davies and his wife, Harold Twiss, and Harold Detwiler. In 1930 Bob Lyon and his orchestra was very popular. In the winter, dances were in the hall and enjoyed by the neighbours.

Around 1924 the Boy Scouts from Edmonton started spending two weeks at the lake each summer. They pitched their tents on the land to the north of the railway station which was a big open field at that time. I believe there was 150-250 boys with their officers and their drum corps. They were a very popular attraction.

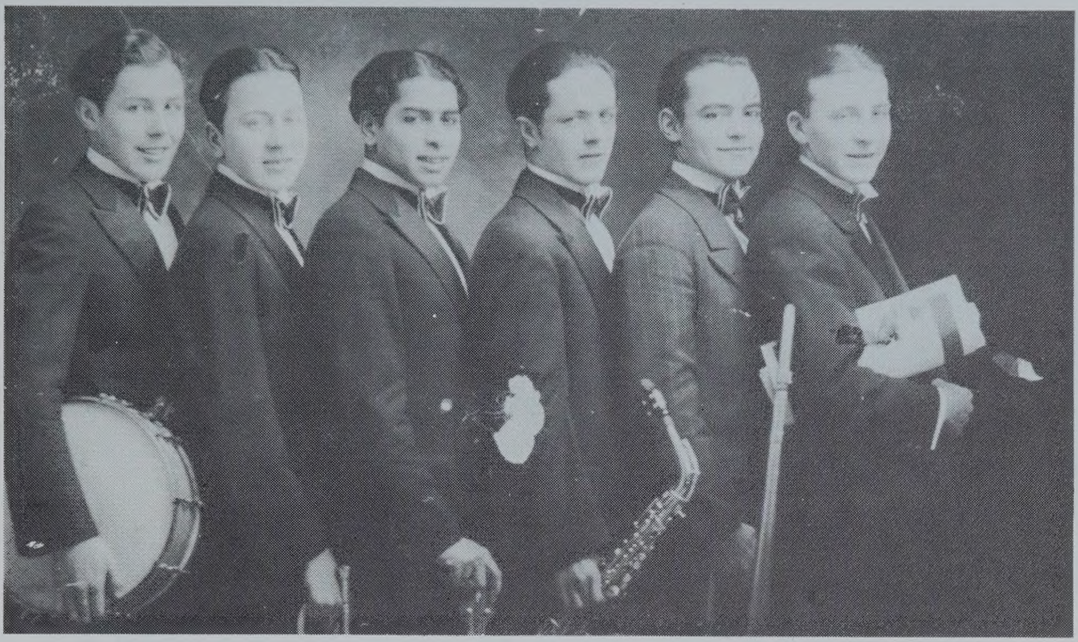
In 1927, the Provincial Government developed the park at Aspen Beach. Trees were planted and a softball field was laid out which proved very popular with the young people. John Berg of Edmonton was hired as the first park warden.

The following are some of the people who served the lake residents in the early years: Bert and Lulu Thorp of Bentley had a butcher shop and bakery and delivered to the lake. Mrs. Thorp was famous for her spice cake.

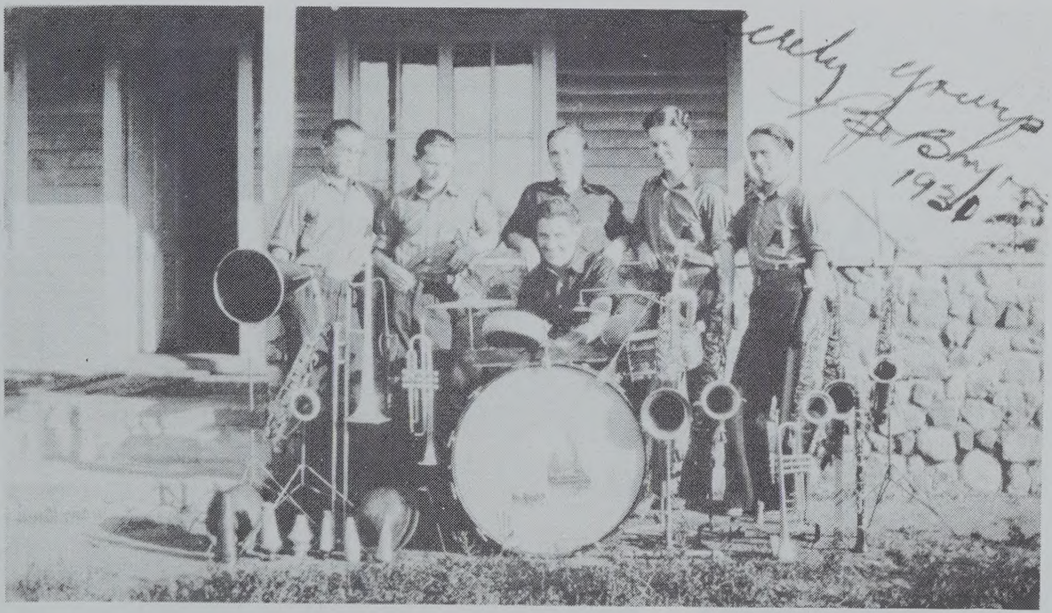
John and Gertie Hug and family delivered milk and eggs to the cottagers for years. Del Henderson of Lacombe delivered milk and cream to the lake. Wm. Winslow delivered milk and also sold his famous caramel candies. The Miller family delivered homegrown vegetables. Otto and Ann Woellner had the store next to the Provincial Park. Hugh Gunn had a candy store across from Ott's, where he made his own candy. Tom Lorimer had a general store which later became Dolly's.

1918 - Picture showing Lake View Hotel and high lake level.

BANDS AT GULL LAKE DANCES.

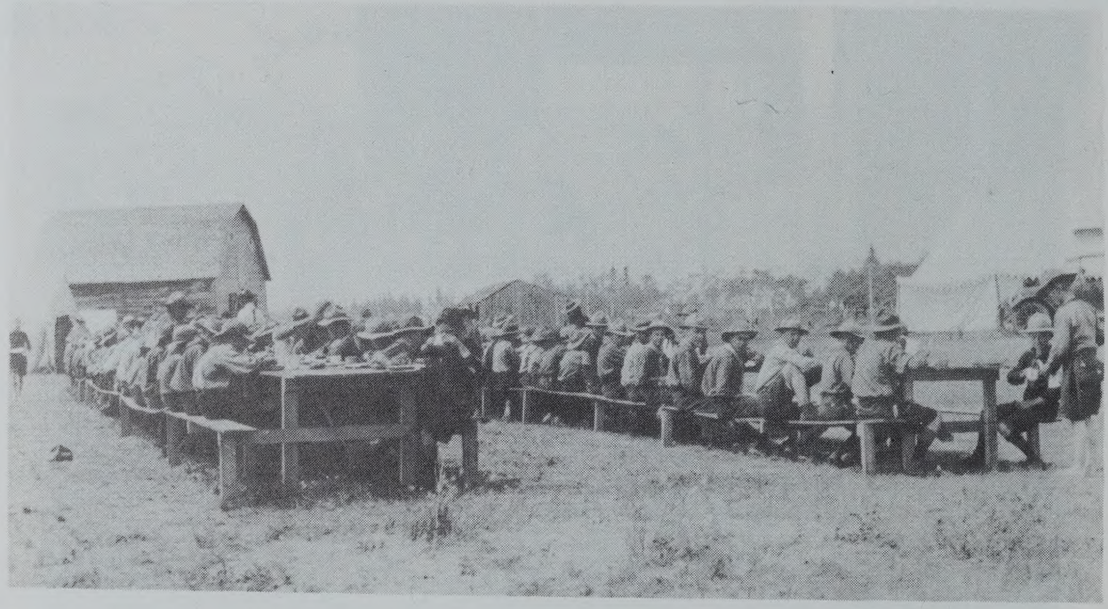


1923 - Bob Rutherford and His De Luxe Dance Band at Thistle Inn. (L. to R.) Bob Rutherford, unknown, Daryl Harper, Harold Detwiller, unknown, Stan Oswell.



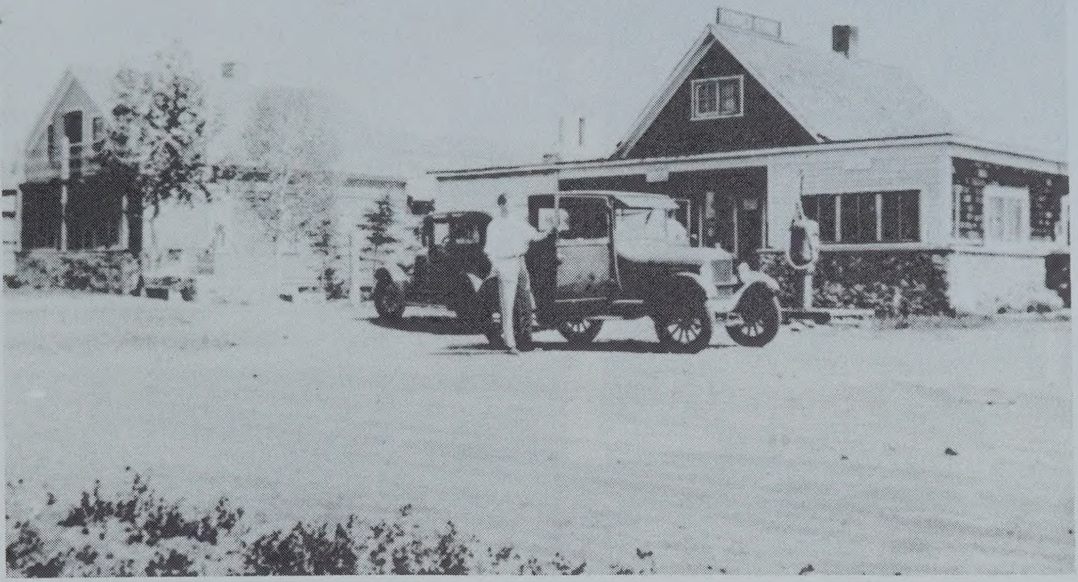
1930 - Bob Lyon's band played at Fernie's Dance Hall. (L. to R.) Stan Chandler (trombone), Allan Madder (trumpet), Harry Oswell (piano), Bob Ducey (lead sax), Harold Detwiller (2 sax and clarinet) Bob Lyons (drums and leader).

1925 - Boy Scouts from Edmonton visit Gull Lake.
Drum and Bugle Corps lead marching scouts.

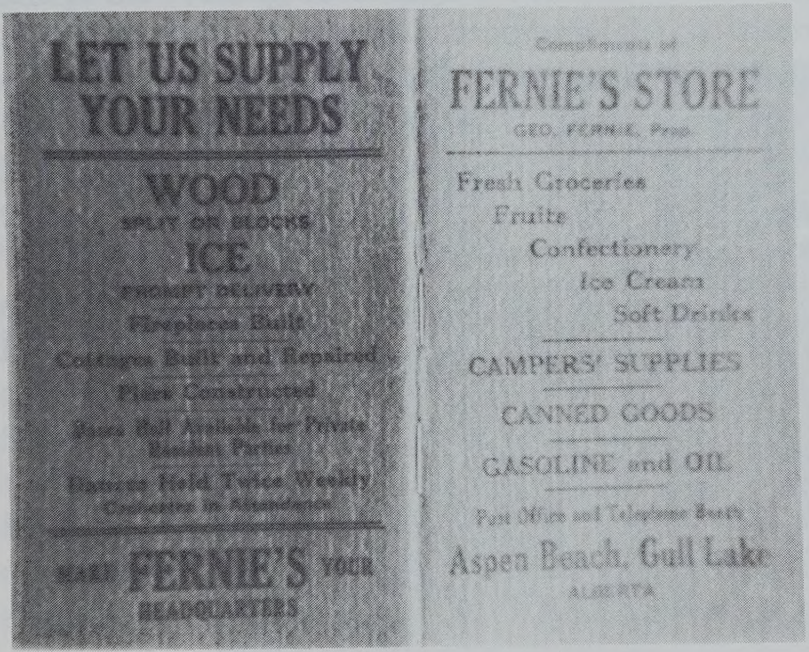


Boy Scouts and leaders having a meal. The boys spent two weeks in camp at Gull Lake.

ASPEN BEACH STORES



1926 - Fernie's Store and gas pump, (before second floor renovation).



LET US SUPPLY
YOUR NEEDS

WOOD
SPLIT OR BLOCKS
ICE
PROMPT DELIVERY
Fireplaces Built
Cottages Built and Repaired
Piers Constructed
Dance Hall Available for Private
Resident Parties
Dances Held Twice Weekly
Orchestra in Attendance

MAKE FERNIE'S YOUR
HEADQUARTERS

Compliments of
FERNIE'S STORE
GEO. FERNIE, Prop.

Fresh Groceries
Fruits
Confectionery
Ice Cream
Soft Drinks

CAMPERS' SUPPLIES

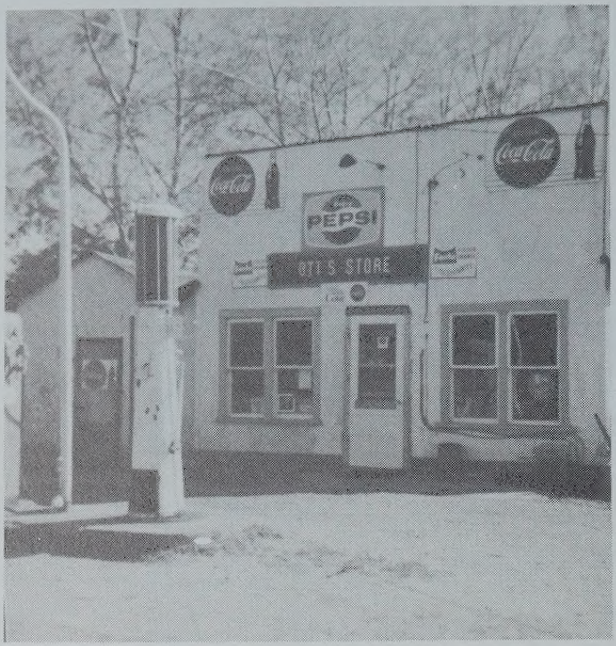
CANNED GOODS

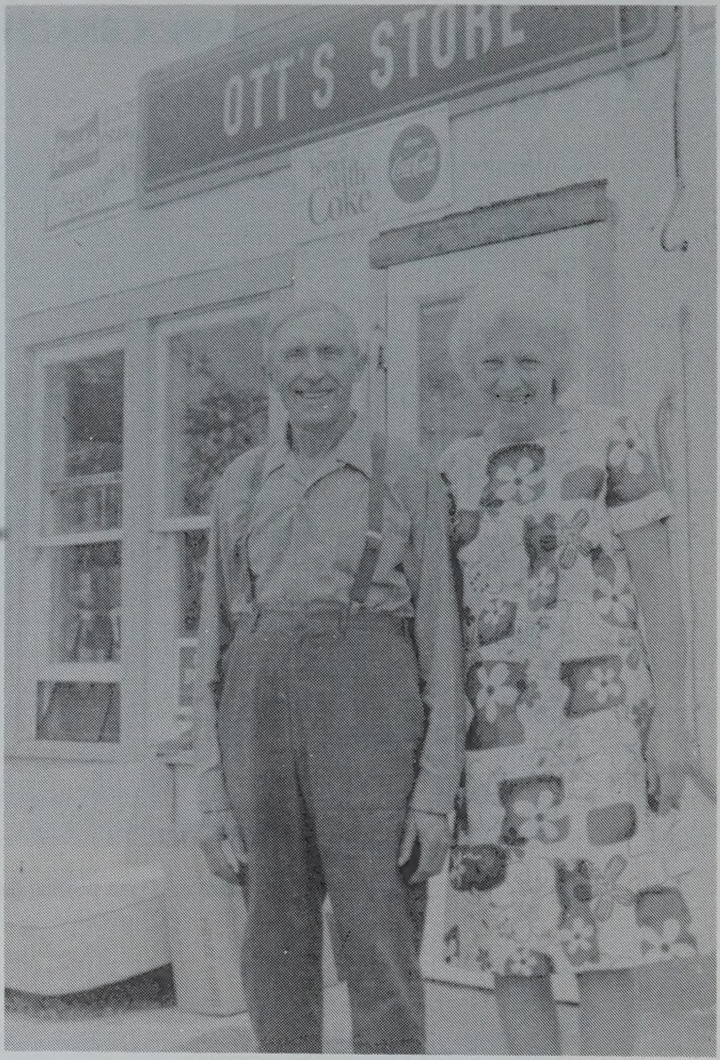
GASOLINE and OIL

Post Office and Telephone Booth
Aspen Beach, Gull Lake
ALBERTA

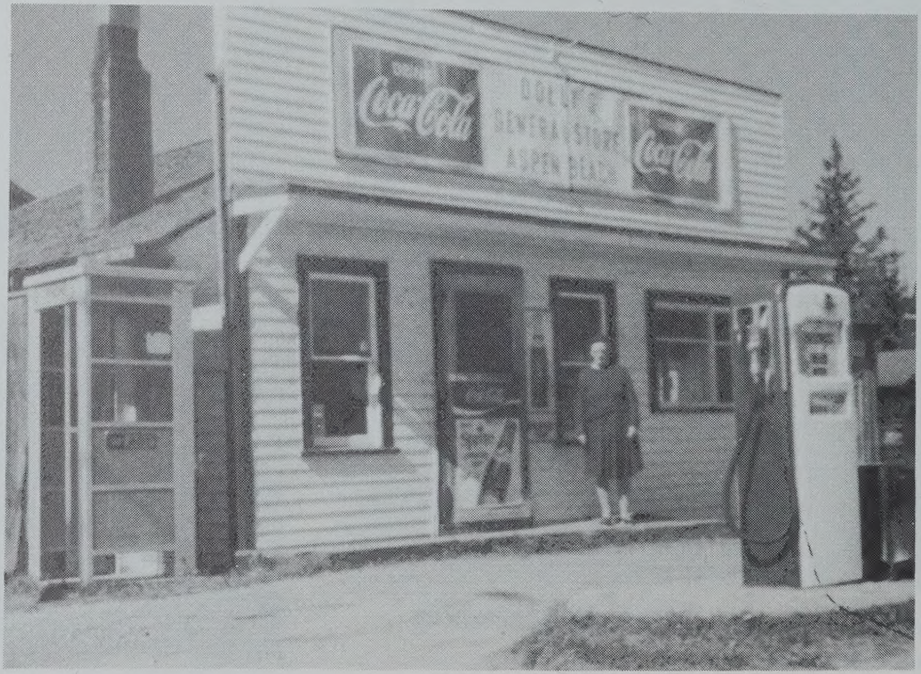
Outside cover of a note book given away as advertisement for Fernie's Store and Services.

Tom Lorimer's Cottage Store which later became Aspen Beach Grocery.





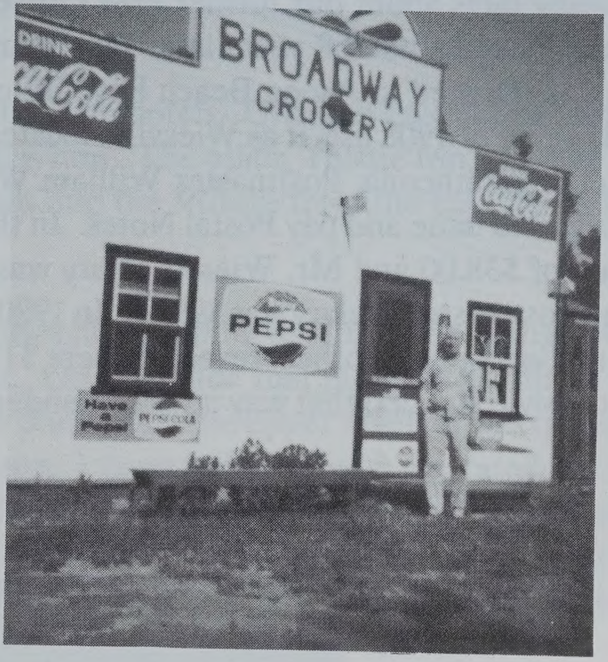
1971 - Ott and Ann Wollner retire after running their store for 46 years.



1978 - Dolly in front of her store.

Broadway Grocery - Ruth and Jim Mitchell at Gull Lake

(submitted by Alice Harris, sister-in-law to Ruth)



Mr. Jim Mitchell in front of store.

Jim Mitchell purchased the Gull Lake property, consisting of the store and adjacent cabins, several years before he and Ruth were married in 1940. At that time the store was an ice cream parlor with several small booths. Later Jim and Ruth removed the booths and made it into Broadway Grocery Store. However, they still sold ice cream and all the children remember Ruth's ice cream. It was quite an effort in those days to keep the ice cream as it had to be repacked in ice every morning. Later, after they got electricity, a deep freeze was installed which was a real labour saver. Broadway Grocery, besides stocking ice cream and penny candy for children, also carried all the basic foods required by the local residents. Ruth's store was open early in the morning until late in the evening, seven days a week, all summer. Ruth and Jim lived in two rooms behind the store; one room was the bedroom and the other served as combination kitchen/living room, complete with coal stove and wooden table and chairs. Ruth always had lots of "help" as her nieces and nephews (the Harris children) came down every summer to give Auntie Ruth a hand at minding the store and various and sundry jobs. Grandpa Harris came down for years to cut grass and keep the grounds tamed. The cabins all had unique names; "O So Homey", "EEEE's" (The Four E's), "The Nest", "Cozy Corner", "Shady Nook" and "Sneezy Corner" (the one near the dusty road). Harris's (Ruth's brother) moved a trailer down and called it "Trail Inn". Of course, needless to say, the "bathrooms" were separate buildings - - out back!!! Ruth always had time to chat with each customer and with her ready wit they became good friends. She was at "The Lake" every summer for about 30 years until Jim passed away, after which she sold the property in 1970 at the age of 76. Even though the hours were long and the work hard, Ruth enjoyed every summer at the lake. I hope this brief biography does Ruth justice. She was quite a woman, and "The Lake" was a big part of her life. Ruth passed away in February, 1987 at age 93 but how she would have enjoyed a reunion of all the Gull Lake summer people.

Note by C.B. Moriarty: What a delight it was for me, the mother of seven, to give each of my children a nickel to walk down to Mrs. Mitchell's after dinner to buy an ice cream cone for dessert, while I enjoyed a cup of coffee in peace and quiet.

THE ASPEN BEACH POST OFFICE

By Bob Blackett

According to records on file with the National Postal Museum in Ottawa, there are some interesting facts about our former Post Office. It was originally opened August 1, 1907 and officially closed some 68 years later on August 10, 1975. The original Wiesville Post Office name was changed to Aspen Beach Post Office on February 1, 1916. The Canada Official Postal Guide of 1908 lists it as Wiesville located in Sec 22, Tp. 40, R 28, W4M in the Electoral District of Strathcona, Postmaster William Wiese. It was an accounting office in that it was authorized to issue and pay Postal Notes. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1908, it reported revenue of $38.00 and Mr. Wiese's salary was $23.33. By 1917, gross revenues were $279.23 and the Postmaster's salary was $99.50. In 1920, the first year that the Aspen Beach Post Office was a non-accounting office, revenues were $128.00. By 1924, it was a summer office only and presumably remained that way until disbanded in 1975.

The Post Office was moved from Wiese's Store to Fernie's Store and then to Lorimer's Store.

"IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE...."

By Rev. C. Dwight Powell

Thistle Inn

It is hard to believe now that our village once had two hotels. One, the Lake View Hotel, was located almost right where our community hall is now. The other, Thistle Inn, stood in the "V" made by Oliver Avenue and the road that leads into the Village from the east from Highway #12, close to the public camping grounds.

Thistle Inn was an interesting building, two stories high, built in the form of a triangle with the point facing into the angle between the roads. On each side that faced a road there was an outside porch along the whole side, and similar porches on the upper level. It was quite a sight at one time with fresh white paint and green trim. I don't believe that it operated too long as a hotel. For a time it was owned by McDonald's Dance Studio of Calgary and offered summer courses in ball-room dancing, with live-in accommodation available. I remember that it was a registration office during the summer of 1940, in the early years of World War II, when every citizen was required to register nationally in connection with the war effort.

It was finally demolished in 1948, and the building materials that could be salvaged were moved to Nanton, Alberta, and used in the construction of a service station, which was later destroyed by fire.

Sucker Ditch

It is hard to believe now that a creek once flowed beneath a bridge on Oliver Avenue, just to the north of the last cottages in the Village in that direction. Known as Sucker Ditch it drained the wooded land to the east of Gull Lake, long before that bush was cleared to provide fields for grain crops. In the summertime, enough water flowed down it to float a rowboat, and it was wide enough that the oars could be used on each side of the boat and still be in water. The writer remembers just such a boat ride from the Lake to a point beyond the railway bridge.

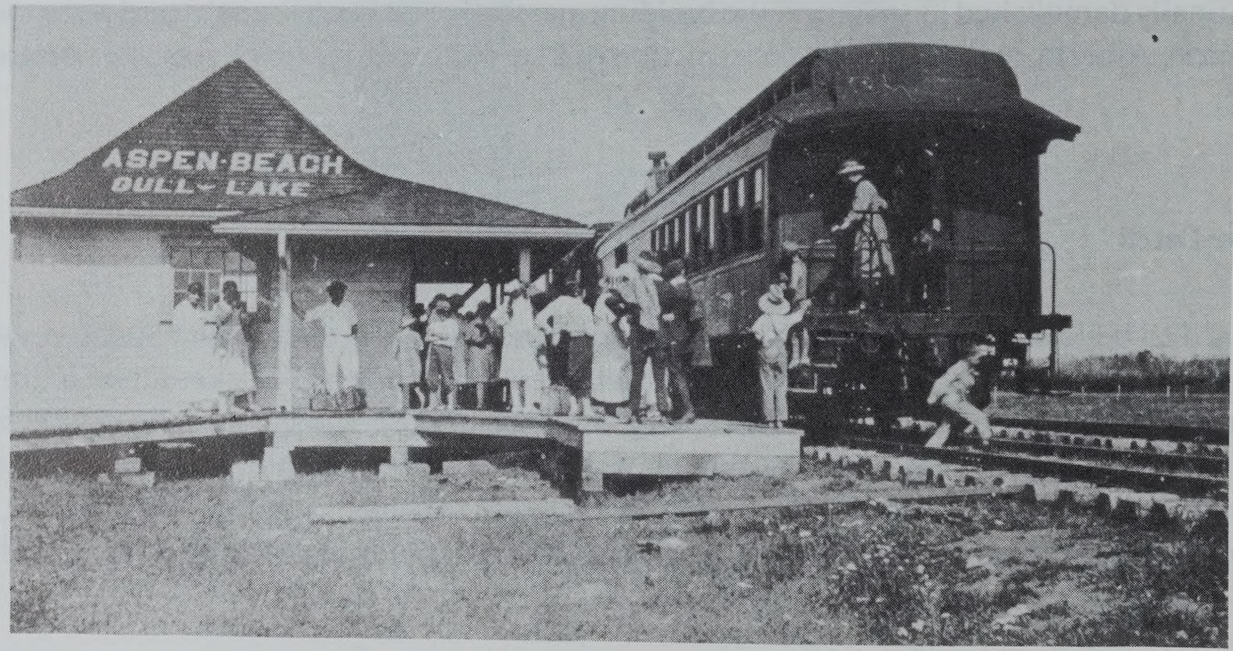
Chinese Cafe

It is hard to believe now that the Village once had a regular Cafe, operated by a Chinaman who sold confectionery items and served full-course meals. The cafe stood in a field which is now the group camping area of the public camping grounds, just to the northeast of the former Ott Woellner's Store. It did not seem to last very long, but the writer remembers eating a meal there with his father seventy years ago, in the summer of 1918, after getting off the train from Lacombe at the Aspen Beach railway station.

Transportation

It is hard to believe now that there was a time when we traveled to the Lake and home again without a car. In the mid-teens of this century, our annual trip to the cottage at Gull Lake began with getting out of bed at 5:00 a.m. to get our two trunks packed and away to the railway station by baggage transfer. We left Calgary later on a passenger train that took four hours from there to Lacombe, where we transferred to a large, two-seated democrat, with our trunks tied on behind the back seat for our ride to the Lake behind a good, lively team of horses.

For two or three summers the Lacombe-Gull Lake segment of the journey was aboard "The Peanut" which was the affectionate nickname for the Lacombe and Northwestern Railway train. Soon after we had our own car, but the trip took long enough because the Calgary-Edmonton "highway" had not been graveled yet, let alone paved. Over the years, we have cut it down to two hours from Calgary to the cottage.

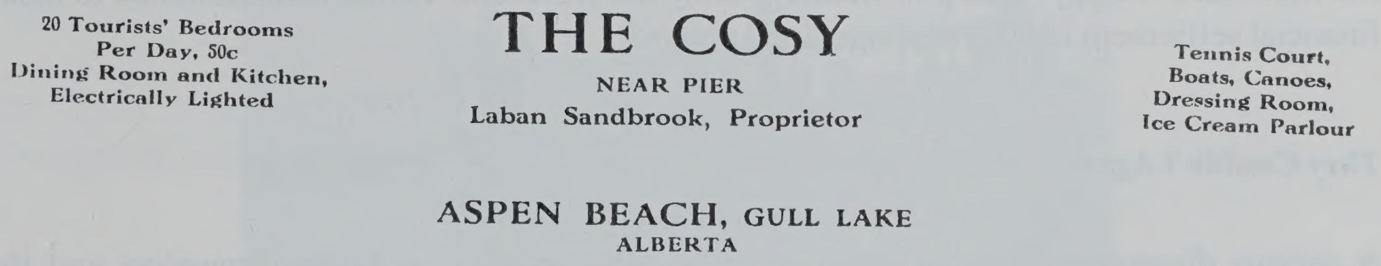


"The Peanut" brings holidayers to Aspen Beach.

A Cottage for $5.00

It is hard to believe now that the first part of our original cottage at Gull Lake was built for $5.00. Well, it was not quite that cheap, but read on. In the late spring of 1909 my father, who was the Methodist minister in Lacombe, had the materials for a one-room cabin prepared at the Lacombe lumber yard, with 2 X 4's cut to the required lengths. The next morning he and a carpenter, who drove a team and lumber wagon, loaded the materials and went out to the Lake. They worked hard, and at day's end they drove back to Lacombe with cabin up, and walls and roof sheathed in. The bill for the carpenter's work for the day and for transportation each way, including carrying the load of materials one way - $5.00! (Note: Rev. Powell's cabin is located at #91 Oliver Avenue.)

The Cosy Dance Hall and Theatre and Aspen Beach Tennis Court.



20 Tourists' Bedrooms
Per Day, 50c
Dining Room and Kitchen,
Electrically Lighted

THE COSY
NEAR PIER
Laban Sandbrook, Proprietor

Tennis Court,
Boats, Canoes,
Dressing Room,
Ice Cream Parlour

ASPEN BEACH, GULL LAKE
ALBERTA

Letterhead advertising The Cosy.

MINISTER SHANGHAIED AT GULL LAKE

By V.B.M. from The Western Globe, Thursday, July 30, 1936

While white sails lazed in the blue distance of Gull Lake last Sunday and the merry shouts of surf bathers mingled with the hum of the motor boats at Brownlow's Landing, Harry, popular host at the Landing and veteran fresh water skipper of Alberta, took time off to tell an interesting yarn of the early days on Gull Lake when a company of Gentlemen Adventurers (knows as Messrs. Brownlow, Putland and Thorp) navigated her waters with their worthy craft, the "*Sea Gull*".

Built in Peterboro, brought to Edmonton by the Peace River Transportation Company and later ceremoniously launched at Gull Lake on June 10th , 1900. The *Sea Gull* was for many years mistress of the lake. Sturdily fashioned of oak, 32 feet long with an 8 foot beam, she was the first steam boat to breast these waves and on many happy occasions she made her cruise loaded to capacity with pleasure seeking passengers.

A Memorable Day

For one such auspicious event, according to Mr. Brownlow, the *Sea Gull* had been chartered by the late Hon. W.H. Cushing, M.L.A., from Calgary to accommodate a Sunday School picnic. It was in 1908 and the arrangements between the Honorable Mr. Cushing, then Minister of Public Works for Alberta, and Mr. Brownlow were made over the recently installed Bell Telephone system. During this conversation it was specified that the cruise was to occupy one half day at the regular price of $6.00.

At the appointed time, Mr. Cushing, accompanied by the Rev. A.S. Tuttle of Edmonton and about 35 others, arrived at Aspen Beach. The *Sea Gull* lay at anchor 60 rods off shore and the passengers were conveyed to her by rowboat. The weather was ideal, the lake like mirrored glass, and all went merry with the excursioners. At sundown the party was safely set ashore by the first mate, "Cappy" Thorp of Bentley. Only the Reverend Tuttle, commissioned to make financial settlement for the trip, remained aboard.

They Couldn't Agree

A serious disagreement as to amounts arose between Skipper Harry Brownlow and the reverend gentleman and the skipper refused to allow Mr. Tuttle to be taken ashore until satisfactory settlement had been made.

The story, of course, became known, and some merry wag, away back in the new-born 20th century, took it upon himself to compose a ballad to the occasion. The first and last section of the only available copy of this ballad has been destroyed, but what remains of it is printed below. ...

Then the landsman placed the "four-plus-some"
In the sailor's horny palm
And turned to rejoin his friends on shore,
To chant the evening psalm.

But the sailor called him back to his side,
"There's some mistake,"quoth he,
"You've given me four instead of six,
As we agreed 'twould be.

Then the parson explained with easy grace
That after the joys of the day
The hat had been passed and "Four-plus-some"
Was all that the group would pay.

The skipper snorted and puffed his pipe
And swore as a skipper can
That six was the sum and six 'twould be
Or the parson would never land.

Then the mate came aft and pleaded with him
To let the good man go free,
But the skipper grasped the helm of the "Gull"
And headed her out to sea.

Then the parson glanced at the dimming shore
And his face grew long and sad,
He glanced at the wide blue field ahead
And swore that the man was mad

He prayed and reached for his wallet

The Sea Gull with passengers.

HOTEL AT ASPEN BEACH WILL BE OPEN SHORTLY

From The Lacombe Globe, July 18, 1946

The hotel at Aspen Beach is being re-decorated and will be re-opened shortly, it was learned this week from the new owners, Don Milburn, formerly of Minburn, and Don Hood of Crossfield. The new partners, recently discharged army officers, have purchased the old building and are at present busily engaged in redecorating the hotel.

The building was purchased by the new owners earlier this month, and it is hoped to have ten rooms ready for occupancy within a short time. One room is already occupied by guests, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie of Ponoka being the first customers of the hotel since its recent purchase.

"We plan on cleaning up the pavilion at the back," one of the owners told The Globe Wednesday, "and to have regular dances there starting soon, definitely before the end of the month."

A coffee bar is also being planned, and it is hoped to have this operating "within two weeks."

Present shortage most seriously affecting the hotel opening is that of bedding. "We can't buy it right now," Mr. Milburn mentioned, "so we're going to have a bit of difficulty there." Any one with their own bedding, though, "can get a room right now," one of the owners declared.

The old hotel has been closed for at least seven years, and is being thoroughly re-decorated by the new owners.

40 YEAR OLD GULL LAKE HOTEL IS BEING DEMOLISHED

From The Lacombe Globe, August 19, 1948

WOODYNOOK-The old hotel at Aspen Beach, Gull Lake, a landmark for nearly 40 years, is in the process of being torn down.

The hotel was built in the early 1900's when Gull Lake was booming, and was known as "The Thistle Inn" for a good many years. More recently, it has stood vacant, with the exception of last summer when the Catholic children had it for a camp.

It was a two-story construction with a flat roof and outside stairways. The flat roof was used for dancing, and a space on the top floor was reserved as a pool room. Later, when the roof became unfit for dancing, a pavilion was added to the back of the hotel.

There have been several attempts made to revive the building, but in view of the fact there was no proper foundation under it, it was in a constant state of worsening decay. Dismantling it was the only alternative.

It is understood the salvaged lumber is being trucked to Calgary, where it will be built into a garage. Another of this district's oldest construction, therefore, will soon be a thing of the past.

CHAPTER TWELVE

BALL GAMES A BIG HIT AT ASPEN BEACH

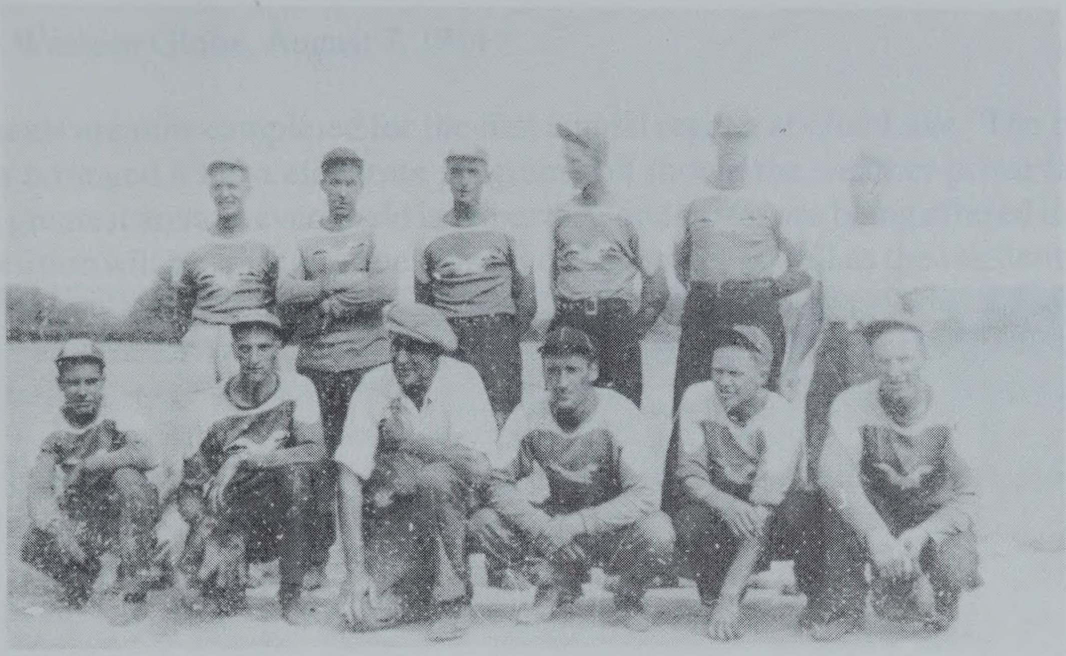
From The Western Globe, July 23, 1936

The hot weather is perking up the ball players in the district and Aspen Beach is fast becoming a popular rendezvous for the games, making things interesting at the beach! Last Sunday afternoon a Sunny Crest team met the Joffre boys in a game of softball and won by a close margin. Immediately after, a baseball team from Blackfalds took the diamond and lost to the Aspen Beach team. Next Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. the Gull lake girls will meet a team from Blackfalds in a game of softball. Capt. Jessie Fernie, who has led her team to several victories, claims the team will again give a good account of themselves. After this game, the Aspen Beach Giants and the Lacombe Leaders will clash in a game of softball, which promises to be exciting. In the evening at 7 o'clock the Jackfish Lake boys will take on a team from Gull Lake, so taken all in all, the baseball fans will be well catered to on Sunday.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM 1934 - 1938

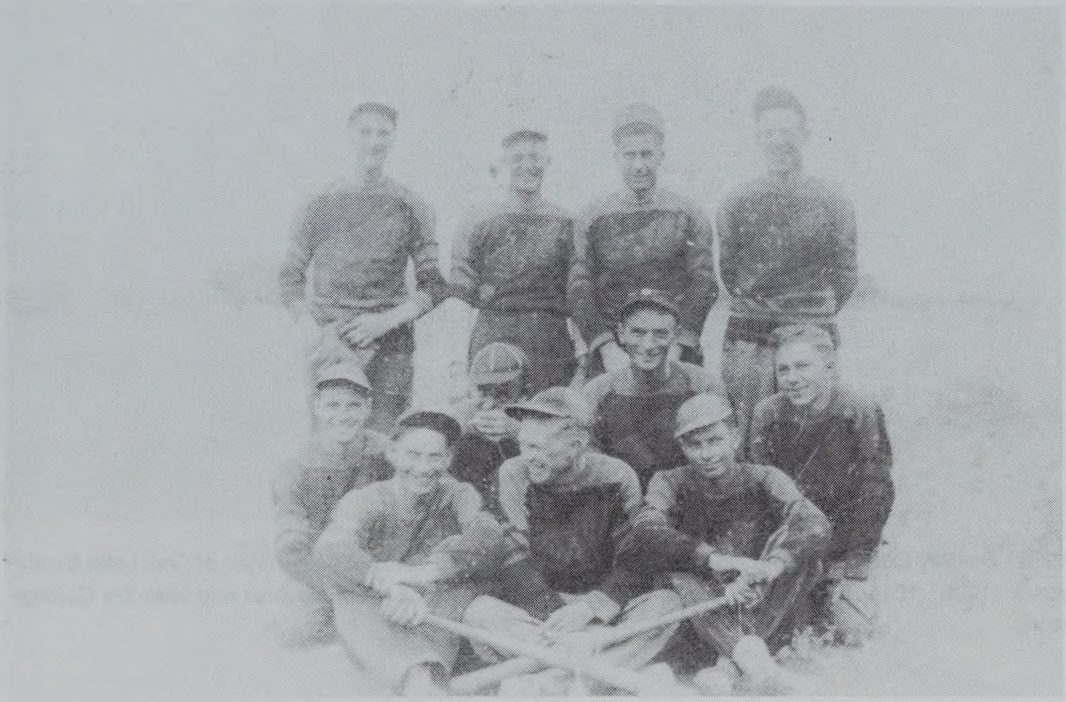
By Gladys Ebeling Seltenrich

As I remember it, the Gull Lake Girls' Softball Team was started in 1934. The team consisted of Jessie Fernie (the captain) as catcher, Gladys Ebeling as pitcher, Opal Hubbard as first base, Margaret McGeachy as short stop, and Rosie Fernie as second base. Other players were Pat and Kay Hay, Jean Saunders, Mary Gilmour, Florence Shewan, and Dorothy Fernie. A few other girls played whose names I can't recall. We played on Sundays at the Provincial Park in Aspen Beach (next to Ott's store) and at Fernie's, just west of their store, on many evenings. Most games attracted a large crowd of spectators and they really rooted for us. Games were played against Bentley, Sylvan Lake, Lincoln, the Orange Crush Girls from Edmonton, and others. Our team was really successful and we won most of our games. I think the baseball team was so popular because it was good entertainment in tough economic times.



1947 - Gull Lake Ball Team. Back Row: Fred Binning; Bill McGeachy; James Swanson; John Ebeling; Stan Grover; Ernie Fernie. Front Row: Tom Damant; Albert Swanson; Howard Saunders (coach); Lon McNaughton; Lee Saunders; Bert Saunders.

The league consisted of Morningside; Ponoka; Lockhart; Durham; Spruceville; Blackfalds; Lincoln Gull Lake.



1949 - Gull Lake Ball Team. Back Row: Albert Swanson; Fred Binning; Bill McGeachy; Dunc McGeachy; Centre Row: Tom Damant; Harlan Kinley; Kames Swanson; Don Saunders; Front Row: Lloyd Brown; Lee Saunders; Elmer Brown.

The young men of the district got together for a little recreation on Sundays. Our ball diamond was just east of Ott Woellner's store which is now the overflow campground.

1928 - Bentley Curling Team skipped by Tom Lorimer. Tom Lorimer was mayor of Gull Lake for six years. (1939 - 1944). He lived at Aspen Beach and operated the grain elevator and later the Cottage store.

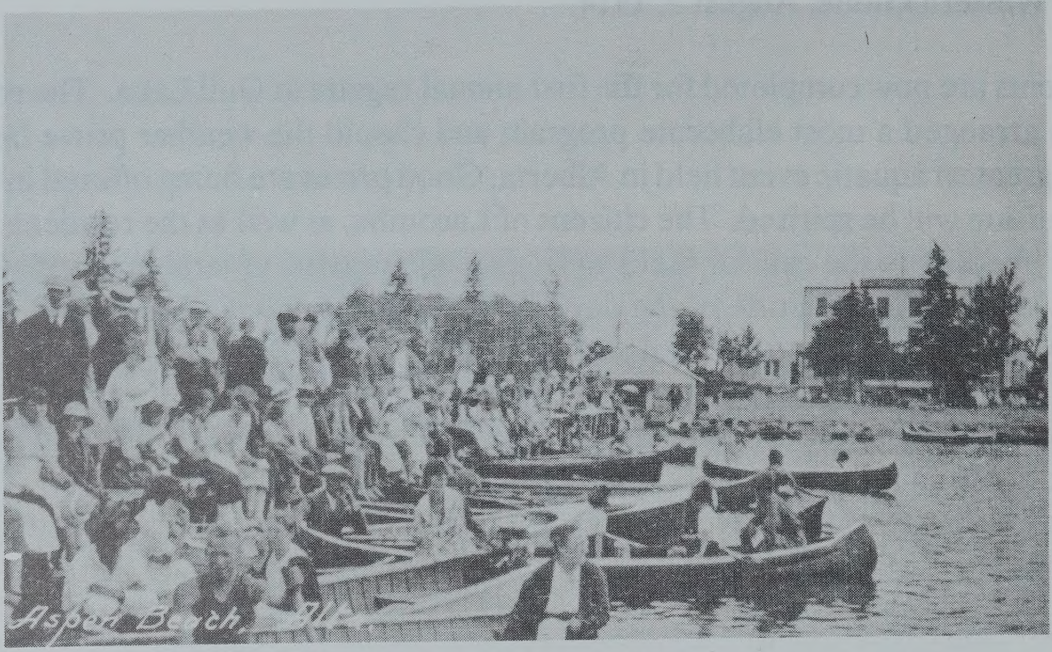
GULL LAKE REGATTA

From The Western Globe, August 7, 1914

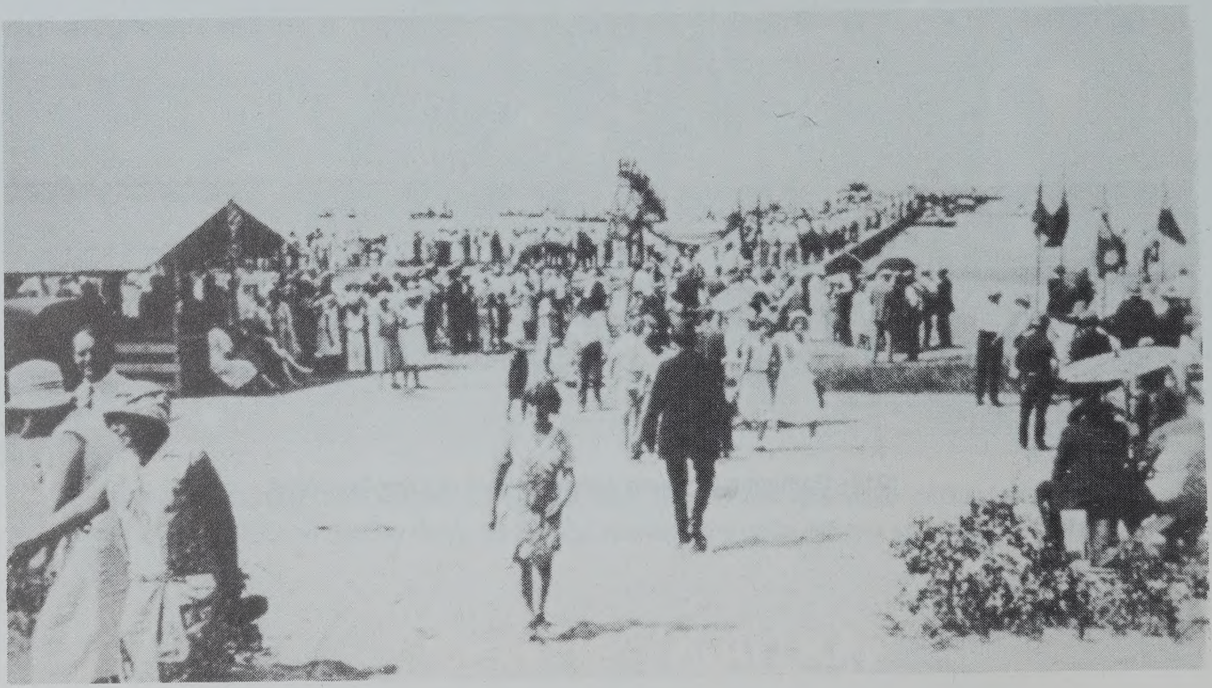
Arrangements are now completed for the first annual regatta at Gull Lake. The committee in charge has arranged a most elaborate program and should the weather prove favorable this will be the greatest aquatic event held in Alberta. Good prizes are being offered in all contests, and competition will be spirited. The citizens of Lacombe, as well as the residents at the lake, responded liberally to the call for funds to finance the regatta, several hundred dollars being raised in a few hours. A feature of the day will be the decorations of boats and cottages, and the illuminations at the grand carnival at night.

Hundreds of visitors are expected from Edmonton, Calgary and other cities, and Lacombe will probably turn out in full force.

1914 - Gathering of young people in front of LakeView Hotel.

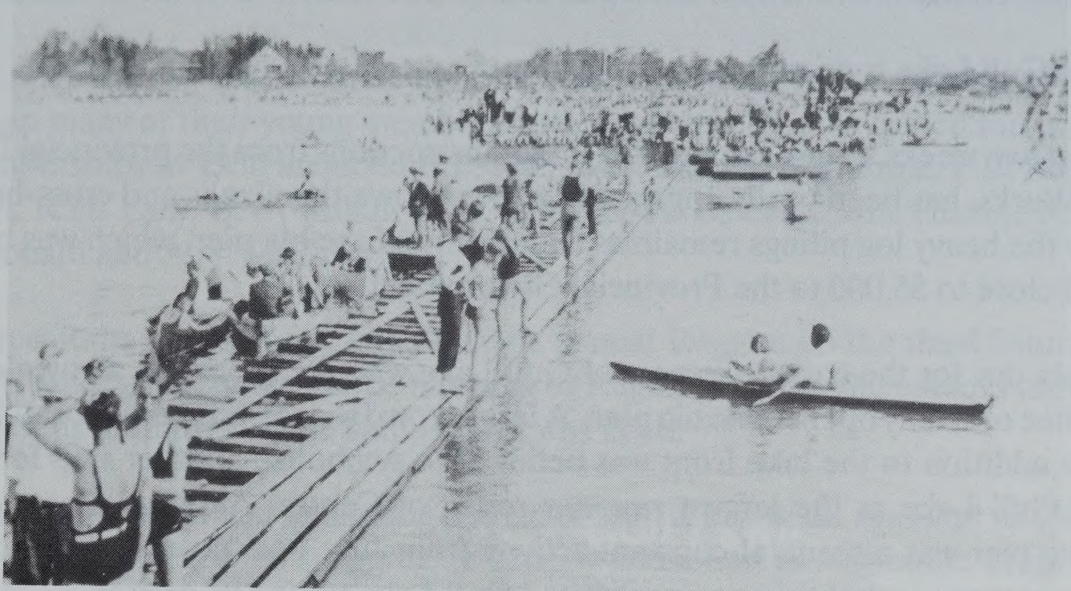

Aspen Beach, Alta.

Gull Lake Regatta - spectators and canoeists gather at the pier.

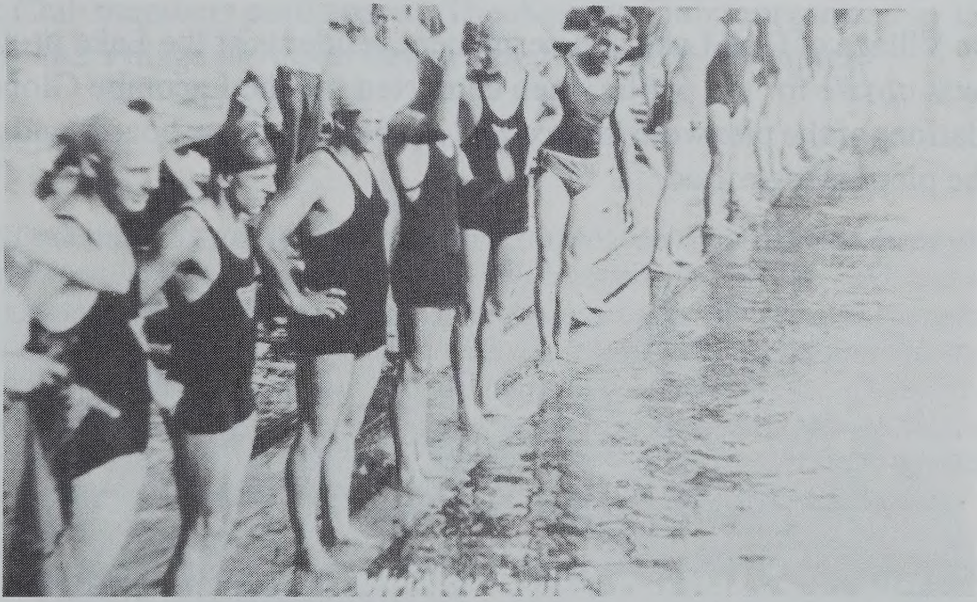


Crowd gathered for the annual summer regatta in the late 1920's.

1931 - WRIGLEY SWIM MEET.
SPONSORED BY THE GULL LAKE SPORTS COMMITTEE.



An extension was built to the Government pier in preparation for the Wrigley Swim Meet.



Men swimmers line up for the start of the one mile race.

BIG PIER AT GULL LAKE DISMANTLED BY GOVERNMENT ORDER

The Lacombe Globe, September 22, 1938

Claimed Unsafe by Provincial Engineers; Cost Government Close to $5,000 When Built.

The pier at Gull Lake is no more.

For the past two weeks, Frank Barr, acting under instructions from the provincial Department of Public Works, has been busily engaged in tearing down the planks and cross-boards of the pier. Only the heavy log pilings remain as a memento of the big pier, which was built in 1928 at a cost of close to $5,000 to the Provincial Government.

It was a gala day for the cottage owners of Gull Lake when Premier J.E. Brownlee and Miss Irene Parlbee officially opened the big pier. A large crowd witnessed the elaborate ceremonies as the new addition to the lake front was believed to symbolize another step forward in the growth of Gull Lake as the largest summer resort of Central Alberta. For years after its opening the pier was a scene of constant activity from July 1 to the end of August as resort seekers from every part of the province visited Gull Lake to sing its praises.

But the waters of the lake receded; slowly at first, then quickly. The lake waters surrounding the big pier gave way to a broad plain of sand. Government engineers inspected the pier this spring and condemned the foundations, claiming them to be dangerous and unsafe.

Officials of the Village of Gull Lake and permanent residents at the Lake professed disbelief that the pier was unsafe for the public when contacted by The Lacombe Globe. It was stated that the foundations of the pier were in excellent shape, only a few boards and planks forming the walk on the pier having rotted.

Government Pier built in 1928. Dismantled in 1938.

THE GULL LAKE AQUATIC CLUB

By Jean Fraser

All of the water sports and recreation activities we enjoy today have been flourishing in decades past. There have been a series of institutions undertaking the sponsorship, instruction and organization of those activities; but, by and large, the activities have been fairly constant.

The Gull Lake Aquatic Club flourished in the nineteen-twenties and thirties, grinding down in 1939 when many of their young members became involved in the armed forces. The list of family memberships in 1930 included E.P. Hall, Mrs. Oldual, M.J. Price, F.E. McLeod, P.G. McPherson, R.H. Lacy, B.W. Millar, R.H. Douglas, A. Belcher, Mrs. Clarke, N. Campbell, G.H. McDonald and A.A. McGillivray.

Members recall that the Aquatic Club held its annual Regatta on the third Saturday in July. There was a sandcastle contest in the morning of Regatta day. Young and old participated as individuals or as families and the competition was keen.

The Regatta itself comprised swimming and canoeing events for all ages and all levels of skill. The grand prizes were a Men's Aggregate Trophy and a Ladies Aggregate Trophy, awarded for total points in swimming and canoeing. Names on the larger trophies included Archibald, Dalgleish, Kinnaird, Miller, Sutton and Reikie. In fact, Robert D. Reikie won the Men's Aggregate Trophy in 1935, the last time it was awarded.

It is interesting to note that in 1933 and 1940 the Wrigley Mile Swim was held at Gull Lake. Many Aquatic Club members participated. The Aquatic Club reorganized in 1940. A letter to the Secretary of the Village of Aspen Beach dated July 30, 1940, states:

> *Dear Sir:*
>
> *The Gull Lake Aquatic Club, which disappeared almost completely for so many years, has once more sprung to life. On July 22nd. an organization meeting was held, and while the attendance was not large, there was considerable enthusiasm shown over the re-formation of the Club. Officers were elected for the remainder of the season, and arrangements were made for a canvass of the cottagers in a membership drive. On July 24th. a second meeting was held, and all the canvassers reported that the idea of re-forming the Club had been very favourably received. On July 25th. a "social evening" was held in the pavilion of the hotel. This went over equally well, in spite of the other attractions in the district.*
>
> *The Club's plan is to rent the ground floor of the Hotel, which would include the dance pavilion. The idea is to provide a club house, open at all times. equipped with ping-pong tables, shuffle-board, card tables, etc. The inclusion of the dance pavilion in the lease would mean that dances could be held with very little expense. Arrangements would be made for some responsible person to live in the hotel, perhaps operating a lunch counter.*

In 1940 the Aquatic Club held bonfires, dances and a miniature regatta for children. Their club rooms were moved in 1940 from the lower floor of the Aspen Beach Club to 'The Cosy,' Near Pier, Aspen Beach. The Cosy listed tennis courts, boats, canoes, dressing rooms, ice cream parlour and electric lights among its amenities.

The social life of young people at Gull Lake was centered on the pier. Syd Sutherland recalls that the pier was built in a T shape. The first winter the ice removed the bar of the T so the pier was rebuilt with sloping sides which were covered in sheet metal. The theory was that the ice would slide up the metal ramp, rather than destroy the pier.

On the pier, the young people congregated, having canoed or swam or walked. They'd pick up mail or groceries and then hang around together on the pier.

The July 27, 1944 edition of The Lacombe Globe carried an article regarding the reorganization meeting of the Gull Lake Aquatic Club at which committees were struck to plan for "dances, bonfires and other beach recreations which will be held from time to time."

In July 1945, The Globe reported that the Aquatic Club planned weekly Wednesday night dances in Aspen Beach Hall, in addition to Sunday evening church services and games and dancing on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from eight to ten-thirty p.m.

In July 1948 The Lacombe Globe refers to the "newly revived Gull Lake Aquatic Club." The Aquatic Club had undertaken a fund raising campaign to purchase a floating pier to further the "Learn to Swim" campaign.

An outcome of Marwood Swain's "Learn to Swim" campaign was a small swimming regatta at Gull Lake to give parents some idea of the advances their children made in swimming over the summer. The Globe reports that there were "prizes for all participants, novelty canoe races, a comedian diver and a clown on the beach." The wind-up dance which followed was very successful, netting $25.00. Two metal slides were provided by the Aquatic Club for children's play in the water and a bath house was donated as well as moving costs and a heater for the building.

In September 1948 The Lacombe Globe reported the "First Annual Gull Lake Aquatic Club Regatta." Again!

After 1950, the Aquatic Club lost its upper case designation and references are made to the "aquatic club Red Cross Swimming Program." The Red Cross Swimming programs continued, as the Aquatic Club, once more became inactive, finally forgotten.

PROGRAMME

Annual Regatta

GULL LAKE AQUATIC CLUB

AT 1 O'CLOCK SHARP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1934

1 Children's crawling in water, 6 yrs. and under, 10 yards.
2 Children's running in water, 6 yrs. and under, 20 yards.
3 Children's running in water, 8 yrs. and under, 25 yards.

SWIMMING

4 Girl's 8 years and under, 10 yards.
5 Boys 8 years and under, 10 yards.
6 Girl's 10 years and under, 20 yards.
7 Boys 10 years and under, 20 yards.
8 Girl's 12 years and under, 25 yards.
9 Boys 12 years and under, 25 yards.
10 Girl's 14 years and under, 100 yards.
11 Boys 14 years and under, 100 yards.
12 Ladies' open 220 yards.
13 Men's open 220 yards.

DIVING — (Standing Plain, Swan, Running Jack Knife).

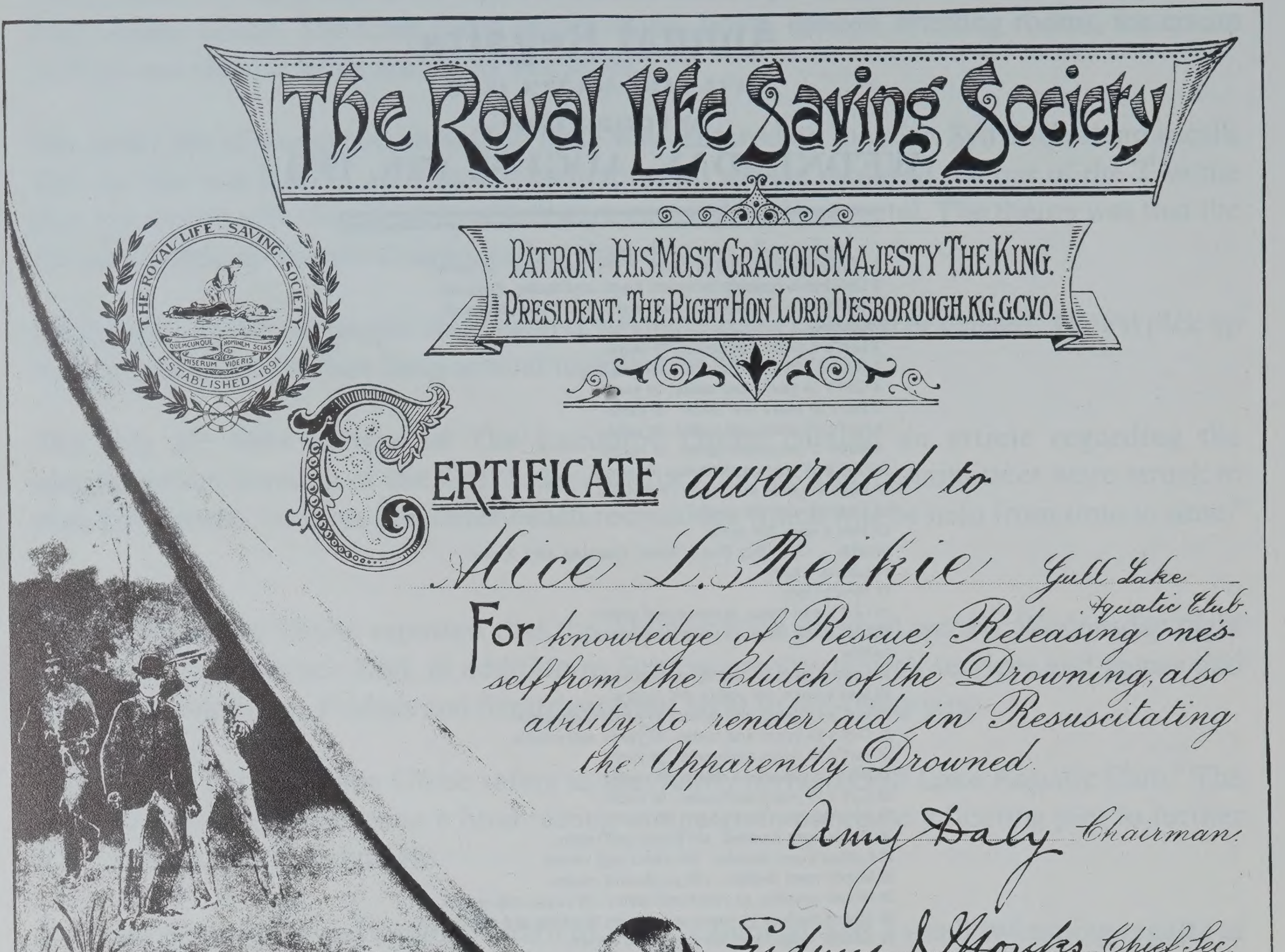
14 Ladies' Open.
15 Men's Open.
16 Girl's and Boys, 16 years and under.
17 Girl's and Boys, 12 years and under.

CANOE

18 Ladies' open, 50 yards and return.
19 Men's open, 100 yards and return.
20 Girl's 14 years and under, 50 yards and return.
21 Girl's 14 years and under, 50 yards and return.
22 Girl's 12 years and under, 50 yards.
23 Boys 12 years and under, 50 yards.
24 Girl's 10 years and under, 50 yards.
25 Boys 10 years and under, 50 yards.
26 Men's open doubles, 100 yards and return.
27 Ladies' open doubles, 100 yards and return.
28 Mixed open doubles, 100 yards and return.
29 Mixed doubles, 12 years and under, 50 yards and return.
30 Mixed doubles 14 years and under, 50 yards and return.
31 Ladies' open fours, 50 yards and return.
32 Men's open fours, 100 yards and return.
33 Mother and child 12 years and under, 50 yards and return.
34 Father and child 12 years and under, 50 yards and return.
35 "Old Timer's" Race, 50 yards and return. (Residents of the Beach for 20 years).
36 "Hurry Scurry" open doubles. One partner lines up opposite own canoe, which is held fifty yards from start with other partner in it, swims to it, jumps in and both paddle back.
37 Canoe Roman, open singles, standing on gunwales.
38 Crab Race, open fours, hand only.
39 Standing in canoe, open fours.
40 Blindfold, open doubles, one blindfold, with paddle, other directing.
41 Motor boat race, (handicap).
42 Sand Castle building.

G. L. A. C.

GULL LAKE AQUATIC CLUB
SPONSORED SWIMMING AND LIFE SAVING LESSONS.



The Royal Life Saving Society

PATRON: HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE KING.
PRESIDENT: THE RIGHT HON. LORD DESBOROUGH, K.G., G.C.V.O.

ESTABLISHED 1891

CERTIFICATE *awarded to*

Alice L. Reikie Gull Lake Aquatic Club.

For *knowledge of Rescue, Releasing one's-self from the Clutch of the Drowning, also ability to render aid in Resuscitating the Apparently Drowned.*

Amy Daly *Chairman.*

Sydney J. Monks *Chief Sec.*

Dated August 1931.

GULL LAKE IS ENJOYING BUSY SEASON THIS YEAR

From The Lacombe Globe, July 5, 1945

Gull Lake is enjoying one of its busiest seasons in many years. All available cottages are occupied and booked up for the two summer months, and stores at the Lake report business as brisk. Considerable work has been carried out by many of the cottage owners to improve the appearance of their summer homes, and freshly painted walls and cleared brush can be seen all along the lake front.

The Aquatic Club has planned activities for the summer, among which will be weekly dances each Wednesday night in Aspen Beach Hall. Church services are being held every Sunday evening in the Hall, and the Hall will also be open for games and dancing Monday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 8 p.m. until 10:30.

A program of health and recreation for children from six to 14 years of age is also being planned, such instruction to be given under trained supervision. Community bonfires will be arranged through the summer, and notices posted in the stores giving the days on which these will be held.

Executive members of the Club are also planning a bridge party, but the date for this has not yet been set.

Over the holiday week-end, large numbers of picnics were held by visitors all along the lake front, and the beach was crowded with swimmers and sun bathers.

The Gospel Mission is again open for the summer season and services are held each afternoon at 3 p.m..

75 BOYS, GIRLS ENJOY COMPETITION IN GULL LAKE REGATTA

From The Lacombe Globe, September 2, 1948

A large crowd lined the beach last Sunday for the first annual Gull Lake aquatic club regatta. Events included swimming for boys and girls in the different age groups, and also more than a little comedy in "screwball diving" and canoe tilting competitions.

Swimming events were for those seven years and under, nine years and under, 11 and under, 16 and under. There were first and second prizes for each competition, and free chocolate bars for all entrants.

Canoe tilting was for boys and girls (about 10 in a canoe), and later a little sharp exchange of oars between Russ Patrick and Buster Brown vs. Stew Chapman and Marwood Swain that put them all in the water.

On Saturday, several proud boys and girls qualified for Junior Red Cross swimming and water safety pins.

The pins were presented Sunday by Marwood Swain to Sandy Campbell and Don Woods of Lacombe, and Judith Cairns, Ann Adams, Audrey Adams, Rosemary Adams, all of Calgary.

Gull Lake Aquatic Club sponsored races for all ages in the water and on the land.

YOUTHS ENTERTAIN AT GULL LAKE TO HELP AQUATIC CLUB

From The Lacombe Globe, July 28, 1949

The Aquatic Club funds were enriched by $13.00 when youthful residents at Gull Lake staged a successful carnival on the beach in front of Clark's cottage last Saturday.

These kiddies, all under teenage, planned, advertised and conducted the event on their own, with what Mrs. Clark describes as minor assistance from their parents.

About sixty-five patrons attended and their enthusiasm for the contests, games of chance, museum, acrobatics, races and other games can be judged from the fact that the sum of $13.00 was netted, although most things cost only a penny.

The organizers included Burris and Kay Swenson of Pullman, Washington, and Sylvia Shaw, Lyn Alsber, Helen Clark and Marjorie Clark of Edmonton.

THE GULL LAKE BRANDY AND SODA YACHTING ASSOCIATION

By Jean Fraser

The G.L.B.& S.Y.A. was born in a happy-hour discussion at the F.O. Galbraith cottage, early in the summer of 1958. The planners were C.J. Nicol, F.O. Galbraith, Syd Sutherland, W.A.McGillvray, Margaret Dinning and Harold Johnston. Following their "meetings" the club was registered with the Sun Fish Association, Long Island, N.Y., and duly received its charter. The first races were held in August 1958. There were four sailboats, wooden boats built from kits.

In the early years, races had several heats. Margaret Dinning was the Secretary and Official Starter, firing a Very pistol to signal the start of the race.

Preceding the races, a pancake breakfast was held in the Johnston's and Galbraith's yard. As well, for many years the winner of the Senior Race hosted a party following the races. Latterly the "Breakfast" has been combined with the Annual General Meeting in the McGillivray yard, generally following the races.

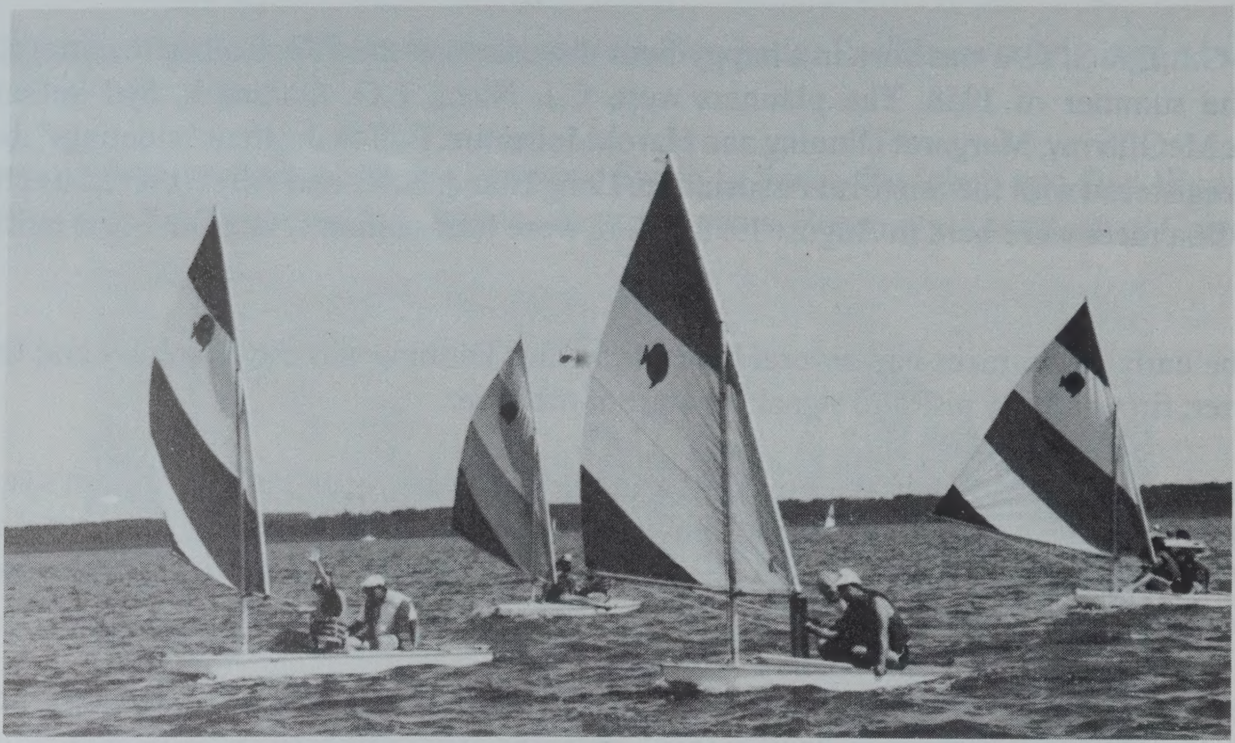
The first Junior Race was held in 1961. The Juniors were under twenty-five years. As the years rolled by, the boats became more numerous and were usually fiberglass "Sailfish" boats rather than wood. The Juniors grew older, approached the twenty-five year age limit and displayed such sailing skill that the senior members decided to change the regulations, raising the Junior age limit to thirty years. In 1980 they raised it again, to forty years. The Seniors were becoming very senior indeed. In 1985 the Gull Lake Brandy and soda Yachting Society added a wind surfer event to their annual race day.

In 1987 the Senior race became a three generation effort. The senior members raced as crew, each boat was captained by a child. The crew just offered advice, as, "Tack now! Duck!" allowing the young captain to do the actual work.

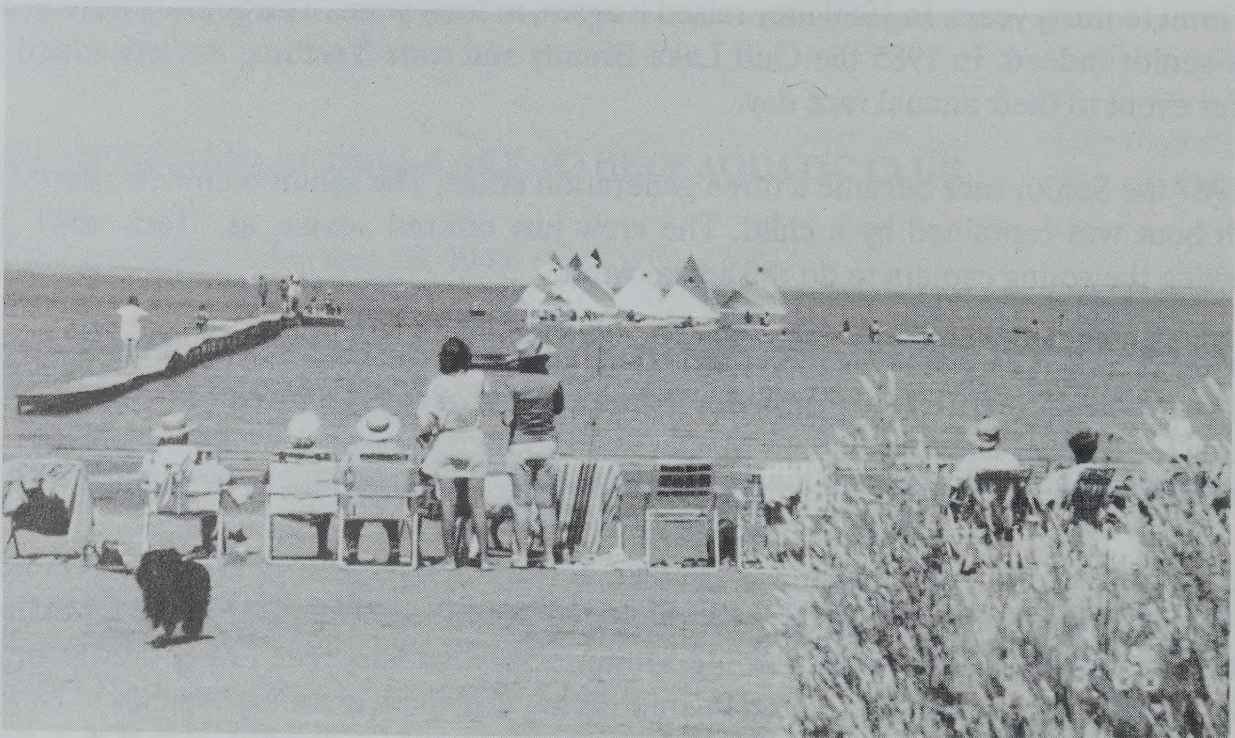
The G.L.B.& S.Y.A. traditionally acclaimed the winner of the Senior Race as the Commodore for the following year. To the Commodore fell the duty of organizing and calling the race, and setting the course. The first Habour Master was Jack Petrie, who reported to the Association's Annual Meeting the state of the tides, etc. This office was also held by W.A. McGillivray.

The business of the Association was handled at the Annual General Meeting, following the "Breakfast" - sometimes occurring as early as mid-afternoon. The meetings received minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, submitted by Secretary Jean Fraser during the period 1965 - 1986. The meeting considered invitations to participate in sailing regattas in New York, Florida, and from other locations. Unfortunately, no boat from the G.L.B.& S.Y.A. was ever entered in those events.

The major awards, Senior and Junior race trophies were presented at the Annual General Meeting. It's fair to say that the name that appears most frequently on both the Senior and Junior trophies is Reikie. Collie has also appeared on both trophies several times.



The Gull Lake Brandy and Soda Yachting races are popular with the participants.



and the spectators.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

By Gerry Hepworth.

Village maintenance was not a major concern for the Summer Village of Gull Lake in the early days as few amenities were expected or needed by a summer population. One of the first services offered was garbage pick up during the summer months, and this was done by a local resident on a contract basis. The garbage was hauled to the village disposal site at the east end of the village. Prior to this, the cottagers simply dug a hole in the ground and buried the little there was. In later years a tractor and wagon were used for hauling purposes, and today dump trucks haul the waste to a regional landfill site.

Water was supplied by village wells which were spaced approximately every twenty cabins. You were fortunate if you had one close to your cabin. The maintenance of these wells was carried out by having a local resident remove the pump handles in the fall and re-installing them in the spring. Along with water was the little house in the backyard with the half moon on the door, known by many different names. In the early years, the village hired someone to clean out the out-houses once a year. This practice came to an end in the 1970's as more and more cabins acquired indoor plumbing.

The original beach maintenance was done mainly by the cottagers themselves armed with rakes and shovels. In later years, as the lake receded, it became an impossible task without bigger equipment. For a number of years, local farmers were contracted to plow and harrow the beach once a year. As the village obtained its own equipment (an Allis-Chalmers tractor and a wagon) beach maintenance intensified with the pick up of sea weed and more frequent plowing. This work was done by the village recreation director during July and August. Today the village has a full-time maintenance foreman, Dave Turnbull, as well as three to four students hired for the summer months. The equipment has improved to two front-end loader tractors and their corresponding attachments.

The early roads within the village were similar to all the roads in the district -- little gravel and lots of holes. Again modernization required that things be improved. They have been as today we see oiling, new gravel, and snow plowing in the winter. This is done on a contract basis.

All in all, village maintenance has improved dramatically over the years since the village was incorporated.

VILLAGE OF GULL LAKE HALL

By Marjory Hutchison

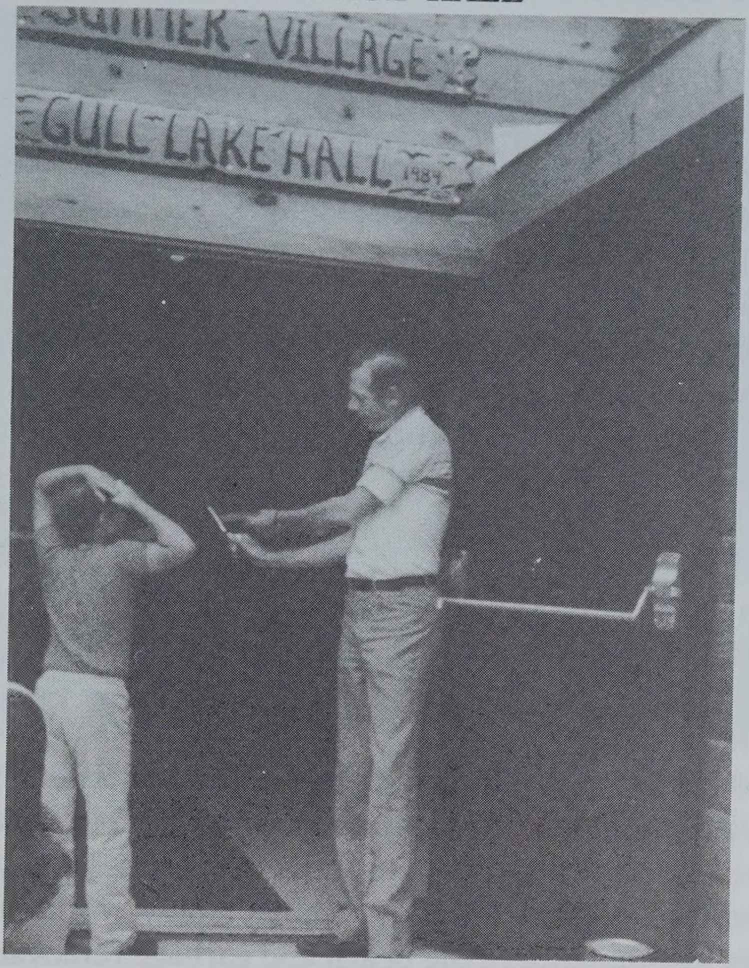
In 1940, records show there was a discussion and village residents were debating the possibility of a new hall. It was proposed at that time for ratepayers to pay $2.00 per cottage into a fund for a new hall; however a proposed cost of $3500.00 was established and this cost was prohibitive. Mr. Sandbrook then offered his hall for sale to the village at a cost of $400.00, which could be moved to another site. In September of 1942 the village purchased 50 feet of Lot 5, Plan 33 from Mr. Sandbrook with the hall for $580.00.

Many renovations and repairs were done to the hall over the years but by the late 1970's it was badly deteriorated and with the ever-increasing popularity of the recreation programs and the need for a larger facility, discussions commenced again for the need of a new hall.

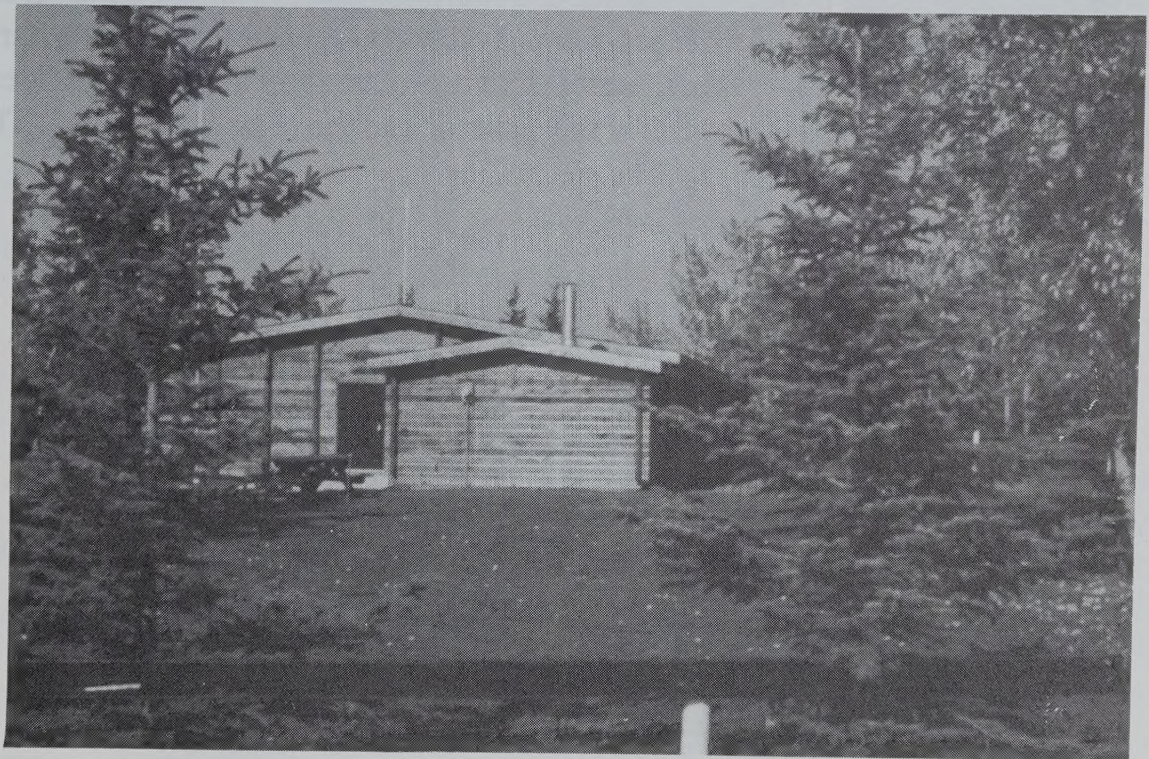
In 1983, ratepayers gave council the go-ahead and a hall building committee was set up consisting of Ken Fargey, Ron Kilpatrick, Syd Sutherland, Bonn McDermid, Greg Mather, Tom Hutchison, Jerry Hepworth, Mike Fenerty, Gordon Lund and Marjory Hutchison. This time costs could not exceed $110,000. The old hall was demolished by Stephen Cabelka in the Fall of 1983 and in July 1984 a new cedar log hall was officially opened with much pride by the village residents.

The Old Hall - bought from L. Sandbrook in 1942. Served the Village until 1983.

VILLAGE HALL



July 7, 1984 - Mayor G. Hepworth cuts the ribbon at the Official Opening of the new hall.



The New Hall was opened in 1984. It is used both summer and winter.

SUMMER VILLAGE OF GULL LAKE RECREATION BOARD

By Marjory Hutchison

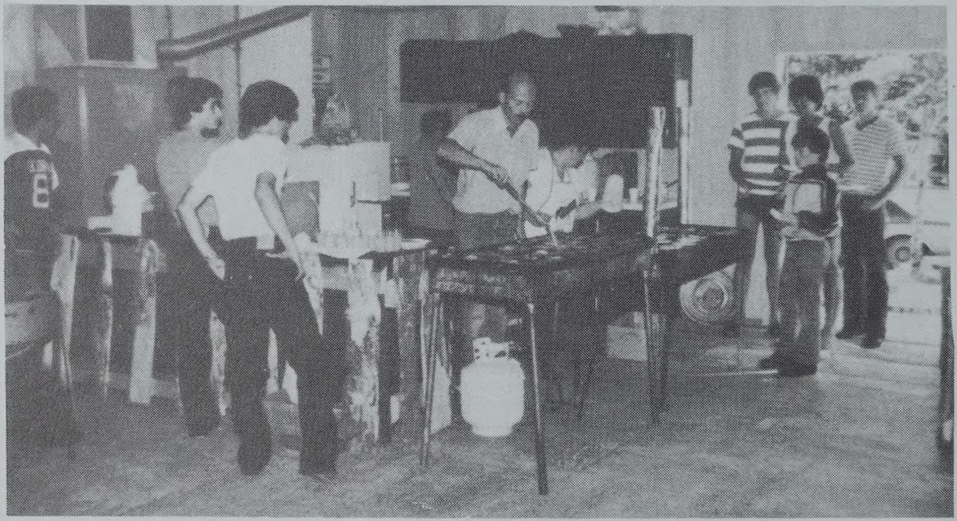
The Summer Village of Gull Lake Recreation Board was commenced in 1974 with the appointment of George Bell as Chairman, Marjory Hutchison as secretary, Joan Noble, Gerry Williamson and councillor, Bob Bowen.

Prior to this, recreational activities offered by the village seemed somewhat limited. Records in the 1940's show the forming of an aquatic club which received grants from council. In 1944, Miss Frankie Cane was employed for a two week period in July to organize play groups for children and put tennis courts in condition to play.

Other organizations such as the Gull Lake Ball Club held dances in the late 1940's and Dick Damron from Bentley held dances in the early 1950's. Also in the 50's and 60's local church groups held Vacation Bible School at the hall, and there was a Red Cross learn to swim program.

In 1965, the village hired the first recreation director, Brian Connery and his wife Vicky, for a complete summer recreation program. Brian was employed for four years and offered many programs to the children such as films, campouts, organized games and swimming. However the program still was limited for Brian and the directors following due to the fact they were also employed for village maintenance of the beach and garbage removal.

In 1974, when the recreation board was founded, a full time town foreman was hired, freeing up the recreation director to a full daily program. Today residents enjoy dances, bar-b-ques, bingo, pancake breakfasts, happy hours, water activities, campouts, current movies, crafts, games and carnivals, under the supervision of the director and the recreation board. The board is made up of 4 appointed residents and one councillor.



July 1981, the annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Recreation Board.

July 12, 1980 - Lively entertainment at Alberta's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

VILLAGE OF GULL LAKE HALL

July 12, 1980 - The Recreation Board hosts a party to help Gull Lake residents celebrate Alberta's 75th. Anniversary.

A RECREATION DIRECTOR

By Janis McGregor

As one of Gull Lake's past summer Recreation Directors, and as a summer resident of the Village, I have had the fortunate opportunity to actively get to know our growing community.

Being the Recreation Director for the summers of 1985 and 1986, I saw the summer programs come alive with enthusiastic participation by all age groups. There are many programs for the children, including crafts and games, swimming, special events and teen events. Family activities include our popular bingo, movies, barbeques, pancake breakfasts and stompin' dances. It has been my experience and observation to see the attendance continually increase in the last ten years to the point now that we are very "comfortably crowded."

One of the vital things that is keeping Gull Lake "alive and kicking" is the abundance of youth. Watch out, future Recreation Director - when these kids get bigger "Red Rover" will never be the same!

There are two programs that I found especially entertaining, Tuesday night bingo and the annual barbeque and dance. Tuesday night bingo will thrive as long as there are men, women, and children who love to gamble. I would not want to earn my living as a bingo caller (or hollerer), but it was indeed a rare privilege to sit up at the front of the hall and watch eighty suntanned faces intently listen for the next number to be called. In the end, when the winning number was called, I would end up with one gracious friend and seventy-nine enemies that became more sunburnt in the face, but who were willing to make amends if I'd call the right number the next time. Thank goodness for the "next time", as it keeps the program booming.

The barbeque and dance is the highlight of the summer social events. It is sure to be packed, undoubtedly has a crowded dance floor, and almost always has a naive but extremely obliging security guard. There's no question the drinks are cheap, the band is "top rate", and absolutely everyone has a grin on their face and a misty twinkle in their eye.

As a relatively young resident of Gull Lake, I see many Lake traditions continuing, with the involvement of our present active leaders and the new generations. Today, expectations are being met as we see great care in the upkeep and maintenance of the beach and additions to our hall and village. In general we have a caring community.

Some changes have come about, but these have come slowly and are due to our respect and love of Gull Lake. I feel this in itself is unique and special. Aside from the social aspects, we have a community respect for privacy. As long as we honour our privacy, both individually and as a community, we will maintain our great heritage.

OIL EXPLORATION AT GULL LAKE

By Carl Christensen

Field Supervisor - Bennett & Hurst Drilling Co. 1951 - 1958

Drill Rig at Gull Lake.

In the early fifties, the area from Lacombe west to Bentley and north to Rimbey showed great potential for a major oil field from data obtained by seismic crews.

One company, California Standard, (now Chevron Standard) had a large uncharted area on their data map, which was the area covered by Gull Lake. They received government permission to drill a deep test hole in the lake. The site was chosen at the northern end of the lake.

A truck-mounted drill rig, owned by Bennett and Hurst Drilling Company of Calgary, was mounted on a large flat barge and moved out to the drill site. Barge and drill were secured on site with a water depth of 22 feet, to drill a test hole to 1300 feet. With drill down to 900 feet, in the early morning hours, after battling a bad storm during the night, the complete unit overturned and sank to the lake bottom. All three crew members managed to escape unharmed, though frightened and wet. With help from a deep sea diver, imported from the West Coast, the barge was refloated and another rig moved on site. Drill pipe and casing were hooked up to the new rig and the hole was pumped full of cement and abandoned. Casing and drill pipe were then cut off at ground level to remain under the lake forever. The drill truck was then retrieved from the lake bottom, by a salvage company from Calgary, and was cleaned up and repaired before being returned to the oilfields to drill again.

LIGHTNING STRIKES COTTAGES DURING GULL LAKE STORM

From The Lacombe Globe, July 23, 1959

A violent thunderstorm hit Gull Lake late Monday afternoon and at least three cottages were reported to have been struck by lightning.

There was no hail, but the heavy downpour of rain was accompanied by fierce winds. Lightning damaged Briar Rose, the Williams cottage of Edmonton; Jesmond, occupied by the Bill Morrow family of Calgary; and the cottage of Bill McGillivray of Calgary.

There were burned shingles on the roof, pieces of linoleum lifted off the floor, broken light bulbs and burned insulation around the electrical wiring.

For cottage dwellers, the storm was a little too close for comfort. Claps of thunder reverberated around the lake, and high winds contributed to the eerie noise. Outdoors, the wind reached such velocity that boats were ripped from their moorings along the lakeshore and blown up onto beaches some considerable distance.

Electrical service was disrupted about four o'clock, and after being restored briefly, "went out" at 5:00 p.m. for a period of six hours.

The power failure was due to trouble on the main line southwest of Bentley. One pole was shattered by lightning.

Storms blow up quickly on Gull Lake.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

GULL LAKE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

By: Lynne Kilpatrick

Over the years there have been many very active Community members. Around 1950, the late Gwen Halpin along with Lorna Hug and Janie McNutt began collecting donations for flowers whenever a death or illness occurred. Gwen, who was a registered nurse, gave freely of her time to anyone who needed help.

Few nights went by without a bonfire with both young and old attending. The Ladies Club was looking after all social functions.

There were New Year's Eve parties held at George and Dolores Bell's and Tom and Majorie Hutchinson's homes and many many great house parties.

Pat Lavery organized one of the first New Year's Eve parties at the hall which was a huge success. People started thinking about organizing a social club to create activities through the winter months. By this time the Recreation Board was looking after the summer months.

In 1975, George and Dolores Bell hosted a meeting at their home and the Community League was started. Dale Kells was the first President and his wife, Rhea, was Secretary. Some of the people who were involved at that time besides the Bells were; Roy Cucheron, Herb and Muriel Harriman, Tom Hutchinson, Jean Johnson, Joe and Vera Lewis, Kay Pikula, and Tony and Olga Zerebeski.

The first Christmas Concert was organized by Dolores Bell and Reita Dermott. There was a skating rink and every Sunday both young and old would show up for some fast and furious broomball games.

The first dance that was put on was funded out of the pockets of those on the board, and thus it all started.

The Community League became a Registered Corporate Society on August 17, 1981. It is in full operation from September through June each year. Also an annual Pancake Breakfast was held in July. There are dances, happy-hours, bingo, cross country skiing, poker rallies, and the annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper Santa's visit. The proceeds from the many functions have enabled us to contribute much in return. We have been able to pay for the sidewalks at the new hall, bar, freezer, stove, vacuum, ceiling fans, storage cupboards and coat racks, among other things.

The Community League is also the sponsor for the Newsletter. It was first published in the fall of 1980 by Yvette Burndred assisted by Dorothy Kilpatrick and Jacquie Fargey. Lynne Kilpatrick started working on it in 1982 and after Yvette, Dorothy and Jacquie retired, Hanna Cucheron helped. It was called "The Gull Laker". As of September 1987, the Newletter has a totally new look and has been re-named "The See-Gull Express", with Jacquie Fargey and Lynne Kilpatrick acting as editors. Over the years it has been enjoyed by many.

The first President of the registered Society was Ron Burndred, followed by Ken Fargey, Lynne Kilpatrick, Roy Cucheron and currently Jacquie Fargey. First Secretary-Treasurer was Dorothy Kilpatrick, followed by Marguerite Connell, Sandy Brown and Lynne Kilpatrick. Board members were: Ann Baker, John Brasnyo, Sylvie Cahill, Gordon Connell, Sid Croft, Cerid Ebeling, Danielle Hatch, Pat Lavery, Jack Parry, Brock Patton, Ray Pikula, Syd Sutherland and Olga Zerebeski. Roy Cucheron, Sandy Brown, Ken Fargey, Dorothy Kilpatrick and Lynne Kilpatrick also served terms as board member.

We are looking forward to many more years of enjoyment in the Community.

October 1980 - Local residents at the Hallowe'en Dance sponsored by the Gull Lake Community League.

1981 - Christmas concert - sponsored by the Gull Lake Community League. Some of the small performers were "imported" from Bentley and Lacombe. Santa visited, the ladies brought baking and young and old enjoyed good old-fashioned Christmas fun.

December 1981 - Local children perform at the annual Christmas Concert.

ASPEN BEACH LADIES CLUB

By Marjory Hutchison

The Aspen Beach Ladies Club was organized in 1960 with 15 Charter members, of which two remain today, Cerid Ebeling and Marjory Hutchison. The original name of the club was the Aspen Beach Happy Gang but was later changed to its present name. Over the years the club has served a very useful purpose in the community, lending a helping hand to community projects and fund raising to help maintain and furnish the village hall with tables, chairs, kitchen equipment, etc. Early fund raising projects included bazaars, bake sales, quilt making and dances. The club donated the piano which is in the new hall and previously in the old hall which they purchased from Ott and Ann Woellner when they left the village.

1985 - members of the "sedate" Half Century Club entertain at the Aspen Beach Ladies Club Christmas party.

GULL LAKERS HALF CENTURY CLUB

By Gordon Connell

This club was organized and incorporated as a society in the Fall of 1984 principally for the benefit of senior citizens in the vicinity of Gull Lake. Any resident of Alberta who is 50 years of age or older may become a member, subject to a favourable vote of a majority of the members and upon payment of a membership fee, currently two dollars a year. There are about 70 members, most of whom reside in the vicinity of Gull Lake, including Bentley and Lacombe. There are also several summer villagers whose permanent residences are in Ponoka, Red Deer, Calgary and Edmonton. A provincial recreational grant helped to pay for instructions in bridge basics, golf, photography, fun and fitness, ballroom and square dancing. All these programs were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

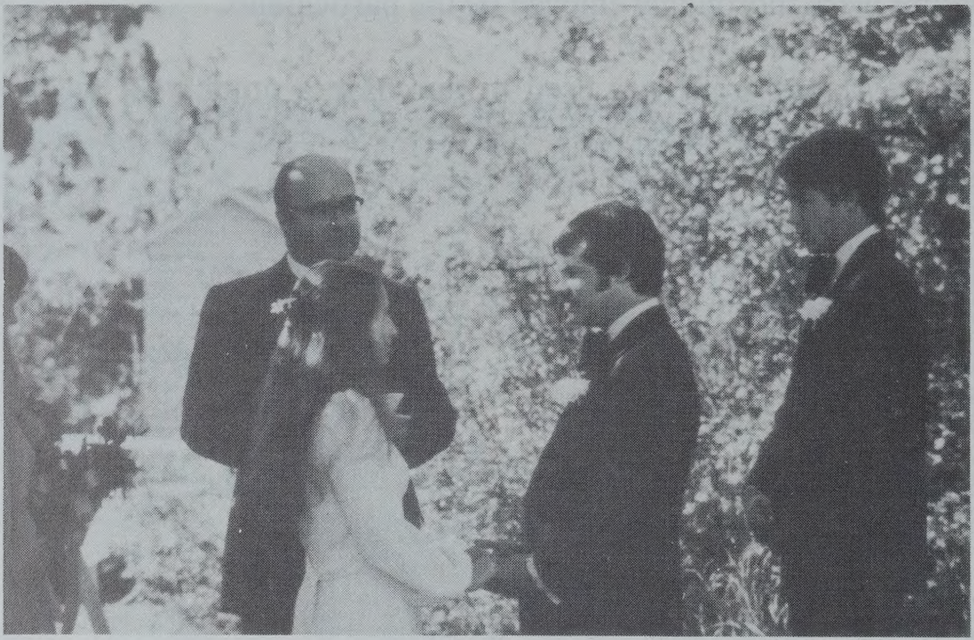
A Federal New Horizons grant was used to purchase a number of facilities including a microwave and stand, coffee makers, tea kettle, golf nets, carpet bowls and reel, shuffleboard, hot trays, horseshoe pits and equipment, darts and dartboard.

A games night is held each Wednesday evening at the Community Hall. The principal game is cards, however members may also play shuffleboard, carpet bowls and darts. The program is highlighted by a Potluck Supper on the last Wednesday of each month followed by cards, a movie or dancing.

Every year the Aspen Beach Ladies Club invites the Seniors to participate in a Christmas party consisting of a dinner and dance. The Seniors have contributed to the entertainment by putting on hilarious skits.

In 1986 the club's float won first prize in the Bentley Rodeo parade.

Karen (K.C.) Jones and Don Hougan - September 28, 1974



K.C.Jones and Don Hougan are featured at their fall wedding ceremony which took place in the yard of "Davy Jones Locker," owned by the bride's parent's, David and Doris Jones. The marriage ended but the tradition of Gull Lake Weddings has carried on.

Terry Connell and Garry Ford - July 12, 1975

Gordon and Marguerite Connell's daughter, Terry, and Garry Ford were married in the yard of Mar-C-Conn Cottage on July 12, 1975.

Approximately three hours prior to the wedding, Marguerite and Gordon returned from visiting Jessie and Gordon Lund on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary,and discovered the bride and her attendants sunbathing! Needless to say, there was a mad rush to get ready. To add to the confusion, the Best Man thought that the ceremony started an hour later, and was no where to be seen. Urgently, the Master of Ceremonies was pressed into service.

Minutes before the ceremony was to begin, Gordon asked Reverend Thackeray if it was proper for the Mother of the Bride to assist in giving the bride away. Terry quickly interjected, "That's the way it's going to be, so let's go!"

As the bride and her parents proceeded across the lawn, a family of robins, who had taken up residence on the mast of the sailboat hung under the eaves of the cottage, popped out of their nest and joined the procession.

Couple married on lawn of Connell's cottage.

Several members of the community thoughtfully assisted with the wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Ranks provided potted spring flowers for the yard, and Alice Hinchliffe and Lorna Hug prepared and served refreshments. To end the gala affair, a reception and dance were held at the Capri Hotel in Red Deer.

Nancy Hamilton and Don Richardson - December 29, 1984

On Dec. 29, 1984, Don Richardson, son of Tom and Vera Richardson and Nancy Hamilton, daughter of Douglas and Eileen Hamilton were married at Gull Lake. The wedding took place at the Richardson - Harradence family cottage "Rest Haven" (#21 Premier Avenue).

Don's sisters and their husbands arrived early that morning from their homes in Edmonton. The temperature was - 35C. when they arrived. They decorated the living room in a Christmas motif, while attempting to warm up the summer cabin.

Don hired a bus to take the forty relatives and friends up to the lake from Calgary. They arrived at the cabin about 4:00 P.M. By this time the temperature had risen to a balmy -15C. The bride and groom were married in front of the fireplace. The ceremony was performed by Honourable Mr.Justice Melvin Shannon. After the ceremony, the happy couple were toasted with champagne and hors - d'ouvres were served. The bride and groom and their quests then boarded the bus and went back to Calgary for a wedding dinner.

December wedding took place in groom's family's cottage.

Evelyn Aaserude and Marvin Coultis - September 13, 1986

On September 13, 1986, Marvin Coultis, son of Olga and Tony Zerebeski, and Evelyn Aaserude, daughter of Rose and Olger Aaserude were married in the Gull Lake Community Hall. The pastor was Sheila McClelland and the pianist was David Bell.

The bride and groom were very nervous and the situation was complicated by the fact that the groom left the pants of his tuxedo at the rental shop! However, this problem was solved and the big moment arrived.

At 4:30 p.m. the music began, the doors of the Gull Lake Community Hall opened, the bride and her father walked into the hall, and the ceremony began.

The wedding pictures were taken in the front yard of Roy and Hanna Cucheran's home (#113 Oliver Ave.) The photographer was the groom's brother, Stanley. At 5:30 p.m. the wedding party and guests went back to the hall for a dinner that was prepared by the groom's mother, Olga Zerbeski. The dinner was followed by dancing.

Evelyn and Marvin were so pleased to have been married in the beautiful Gull Lake Hall and they look forward to returning in 25 years to celebrate the anniversary of this memorable event.

Couple married in new Gull Lake Hall.

Carrie Ranks and Reg Madsen - September 19, 1987

In August 1987, Carrie Ranks from "We Like It", phoned Environment Canada with an unusual request. She wanted to know the probability of rain, the forecasted temperature and the exact time of sunset and darkness for Saturday, September 19, 1987. They provided her with the information and she planned her wedding for that evening, on the beach of Gull Lake, at sunset. With the help of friends, Carrie and Reg decorated the hall and set up tables for the reception. The chance of rain was 60% according to Environment Canada, so they prepared the hall for the wedding ceremony too - just in case.

The one hundred guests had been invited to a weekend at the lake to celebrate Carrie and Reg's wedding. Most of them stayed in the group campground, and spent a beautiful day on the beach. A little before sunset, everyone changed into their good clothes and walked down to the beach in front of the hall.

To the sound of a flute, Carrie and her dad approached the group of guests. (She put on her shoes as she came into view). Jessie, an 80 year old Unitarian Chaplain from Calgary, married the pair as the sun set slowly across the calm lake.

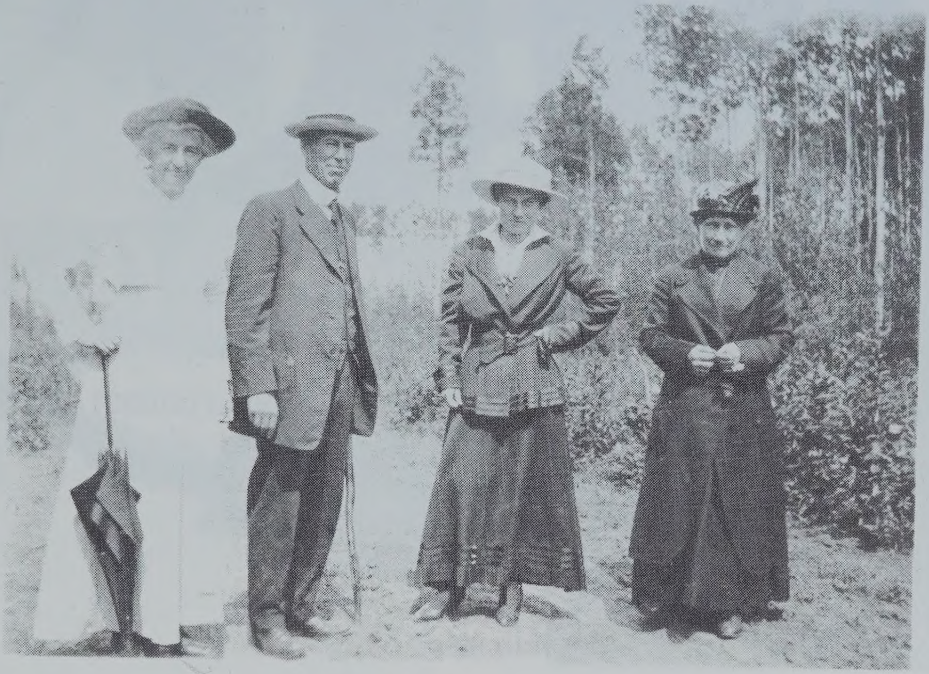
The service was followed with a reception in the hall and a local band played for an evening of dancing. The next morning, Carrie and Reg, with help from the lake crew, served a pancake breakfast for all of the guests before they headed home. What wonderful memories they must have taken with them!

Wedding ceremony took place on the beach.

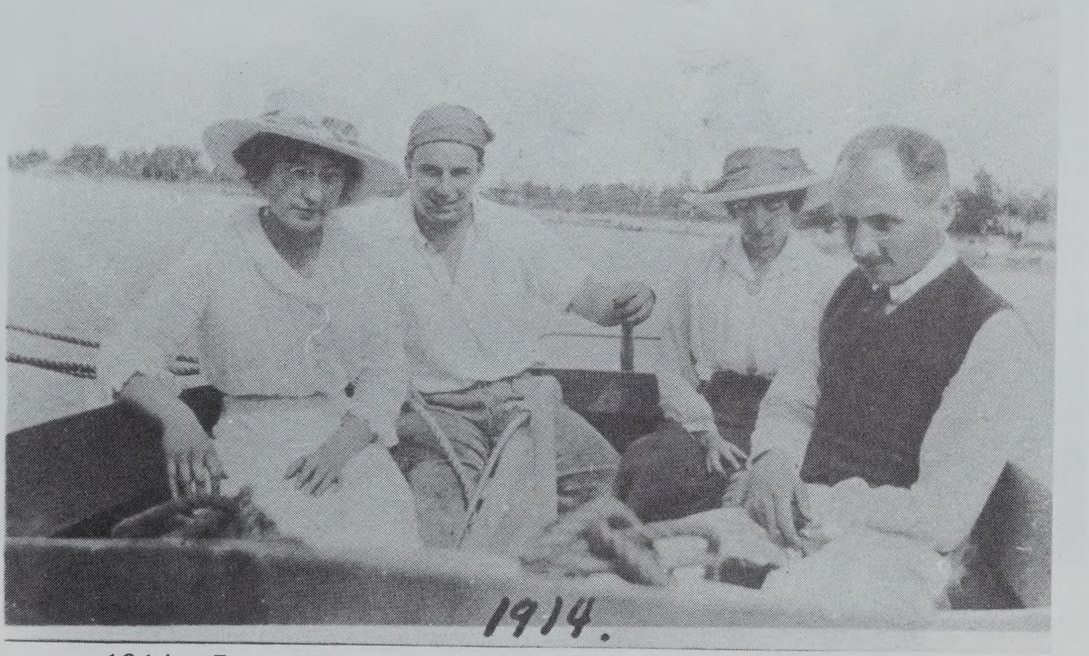
SEVENTY-FIVE
YEARS
IN
PICTURES

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

LAKE FASHIONS



1914 - Dr. & Mrs. D. G. McQueen, Miss Welsh and Mrs. Welsh enjoy a walk at the lake.



1914.

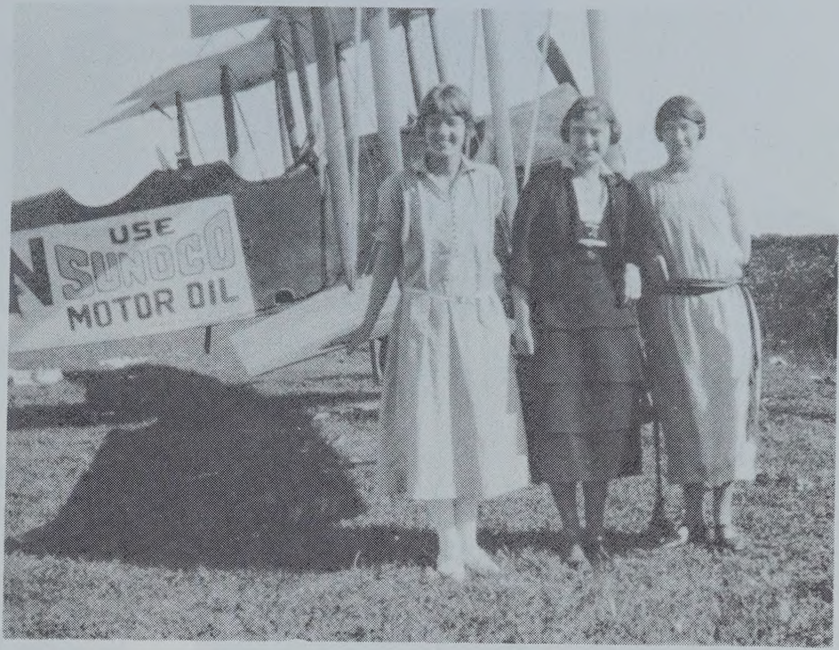
1914 - Jean Dawson, Mac Dawson, Helen Dawson, and friend, boating on Gull Lake.

1915 - Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Sheppard and four of their eight children pose for a picture on the beach.

1913 - Agnes Lynch Barford enjoys the sun while resting her sore leg.

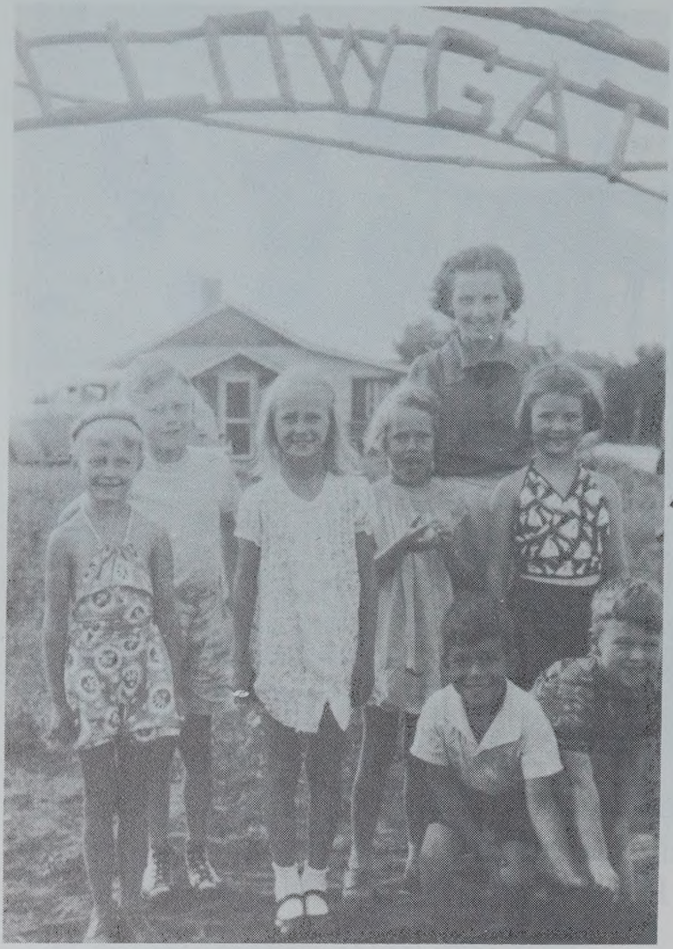
1920 - Four friends on the dock - Marj McQueen, Margaret Lee, Ella Dowling, and Margaret McCallum.

1918 - Helen Wallace (center) and friends, walking on the beach.

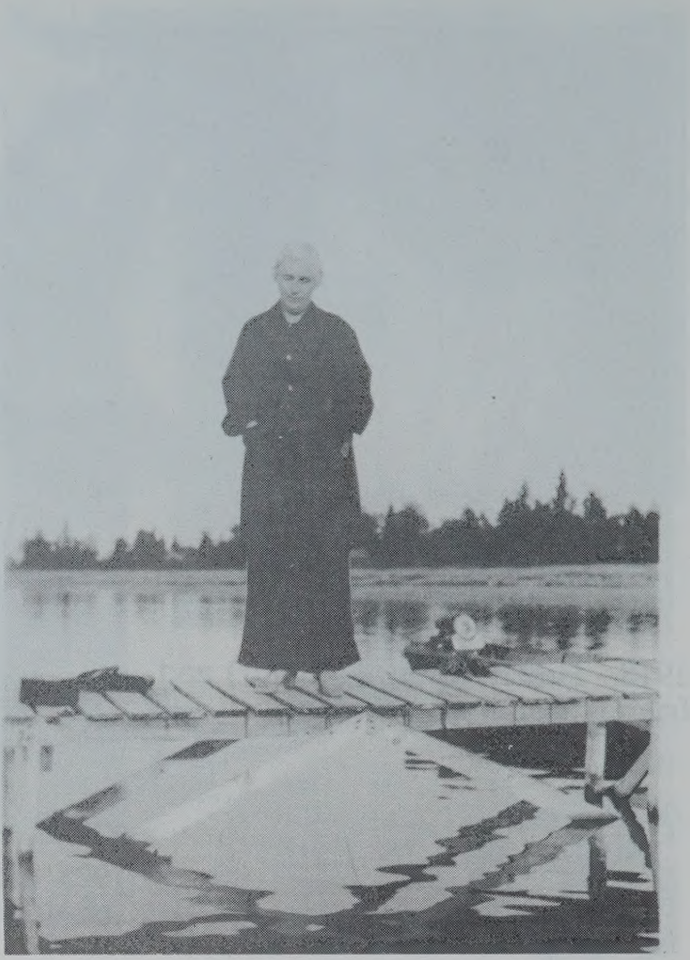


1925 - Helen, Jean and Tina McQueen pose in front of an early plane near the lake.

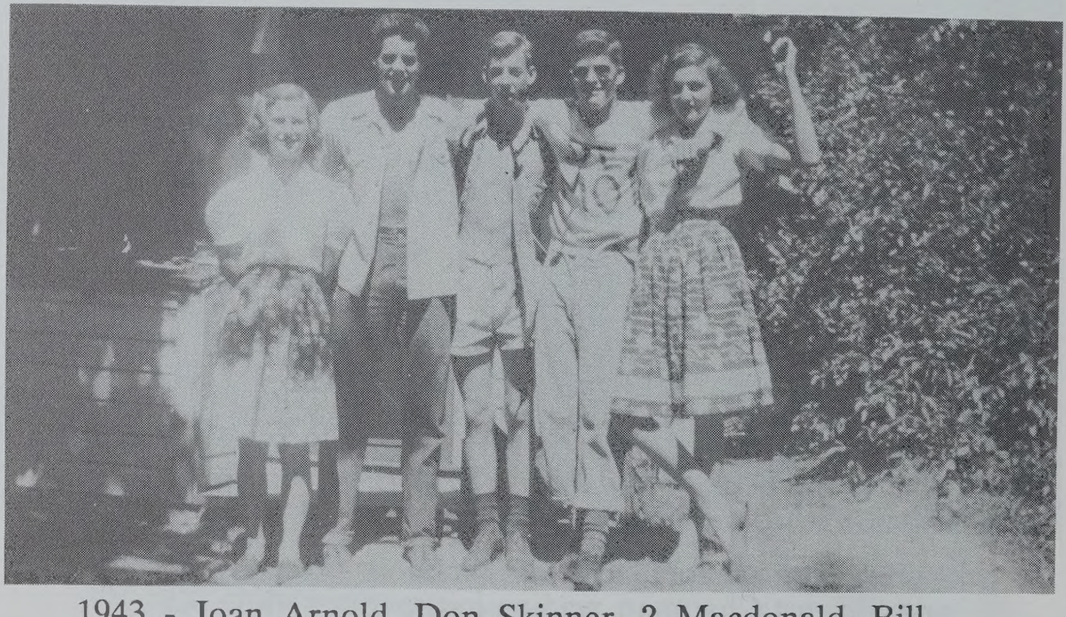
1925 - Ned Chapman, Mary McLeod, Grace McLeod, and Stewart Chapman, wading in the water while Mrs. F. E. McLeod looks on.



1938 - Ann Debney, Eugene Henderson, Ruth Tye, Marilyn Macdonald, Mary Simmons, Betty Wilson, Stuart Macdonald, and Bill Wilson at Debney's cottage "Willow Gate".



1940 - "Dollie" Richardson models her beach coat.

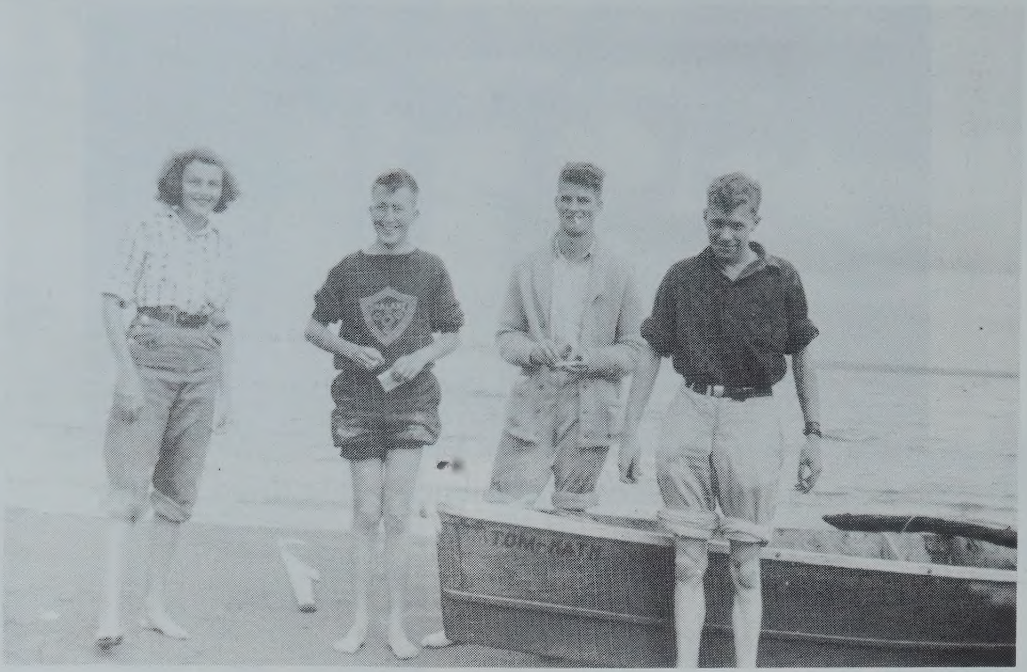


1943 - Joan Arnold, Don Skinner, ? Macdonald, Bill Howson and Sue Saucier illustrate the casual lake fashions of the 1940's.

Marg Howson (right) and friends ready to go out for Saturday night.

1945 - Marguerite Bowen Halpen, and her mother, Louise Bowen and friend going into town shopping.

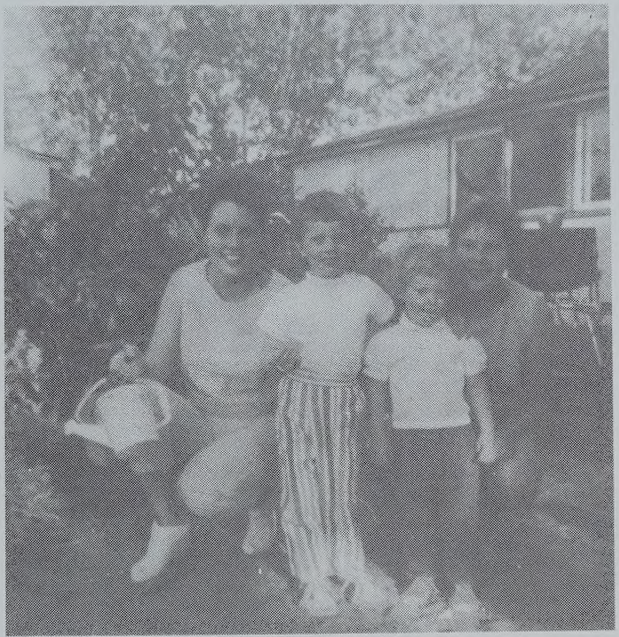
1945 - The gang at the east end. (back row) Susan Fife, Lou Sine, (middle row) unknown, Sylvia Shaw, Kay Swenson, (front row) Bill Griswold, Sheila Sine, Brenda Fife and Helen Clark.



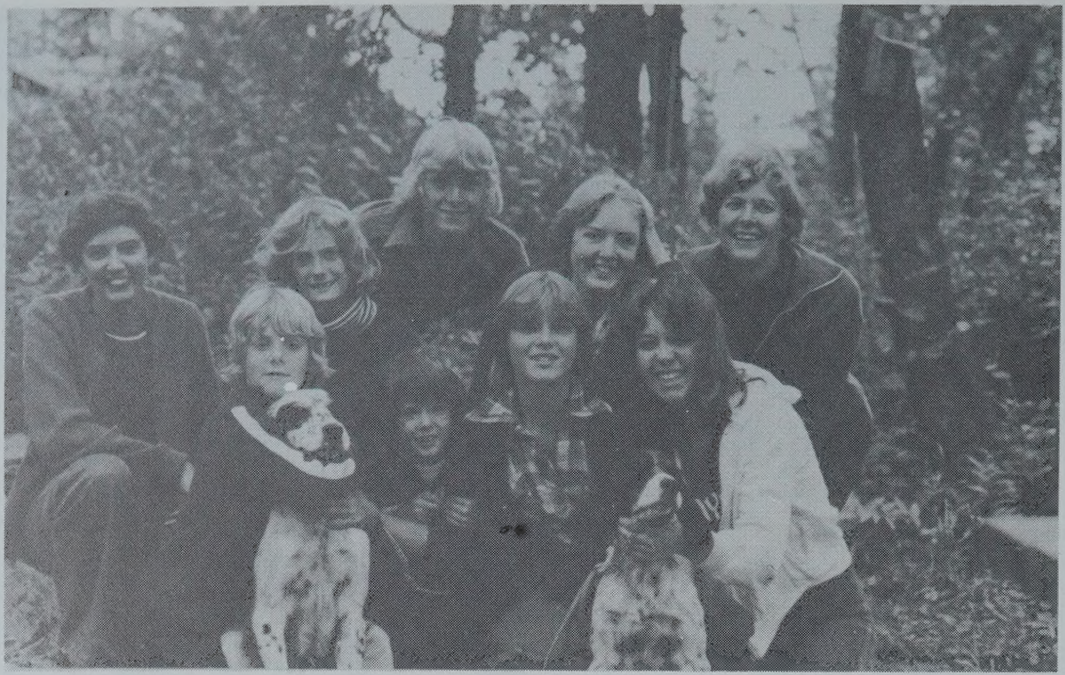
1945 - Sue Saucier, Bill Mather, Bill Howson and Bob Gilmour in casual boating clothes.

1950 - Linda Graves, Linda Peacock, and Karen McDermid in their lake fashions.

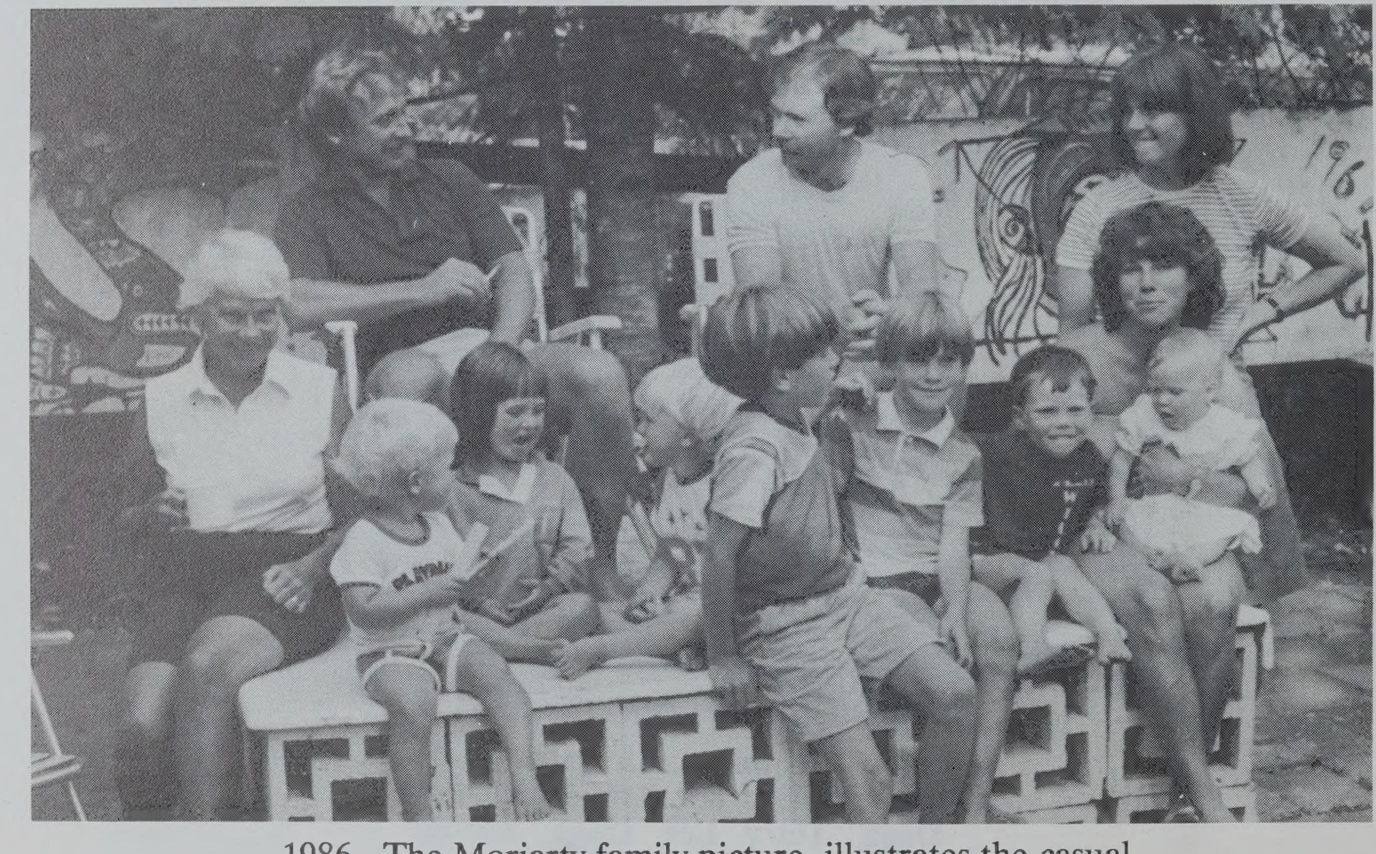
1956 - (unknown), Merv Graves, Jack Petrie, Barbara Hackney, Hank Hilton, and Susan Park relaxing on the Park's dock.



1963 - Mothers and daughters in lake fashions are Arline Williams Dagg, Terry Lee Dagg, Sandra Grace, and Shirley Williams Grace.



1978 - (Back row) Helen Clark Hume, Susan Grace, Cameron Grace, Cathy McNaught, Shirley Williams Grace, (front row) David Grace, Jenny McNaught, Lori McNaught and Jocelyn Ellis in jeans and sweat shirts.



1986 - The Moriarty family picture illustrates the casual lake fashions of the 1980's.

COSTUME PARTIES

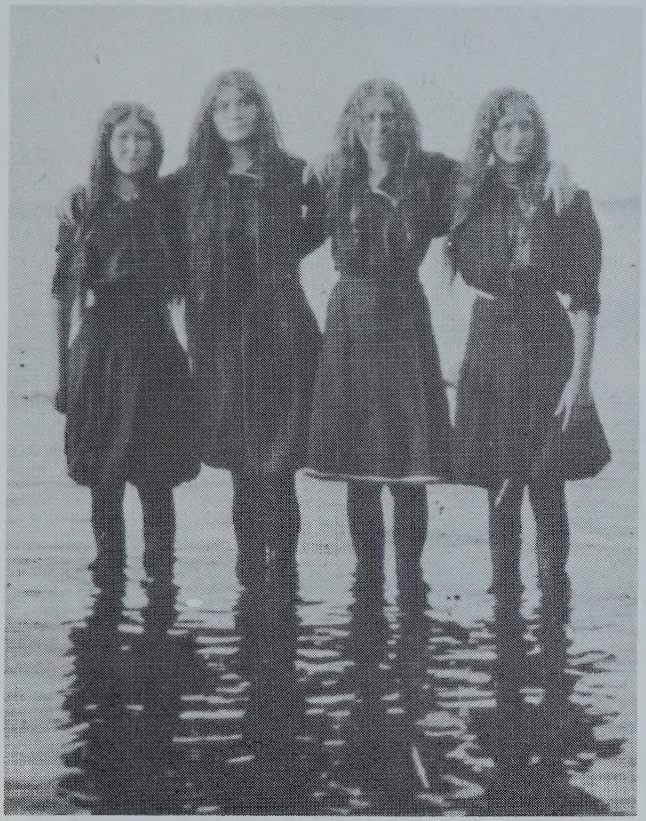
1920 - Dress-up parties have always been popular at the lake.

VANCOUVER
TRY STUART'S CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNERS

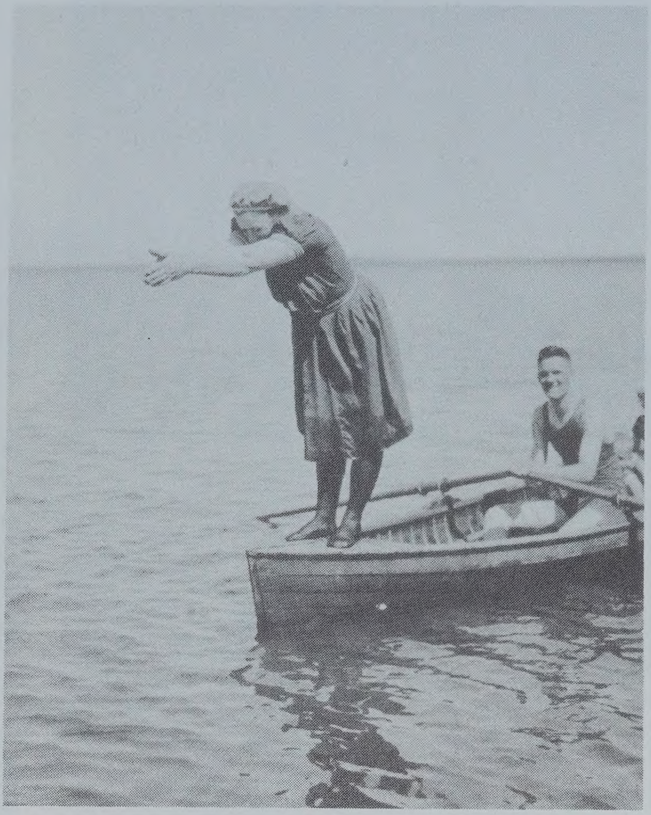
1928 - Mrs. C.A. Stuart's annual masquerade party brought out many strange costumes.

1969 - Fraser Stothart, Jocelyn Ellis, Lori McNaught, Cathy McNaught, and Gordon Stothart dressed for the annual costume parade.

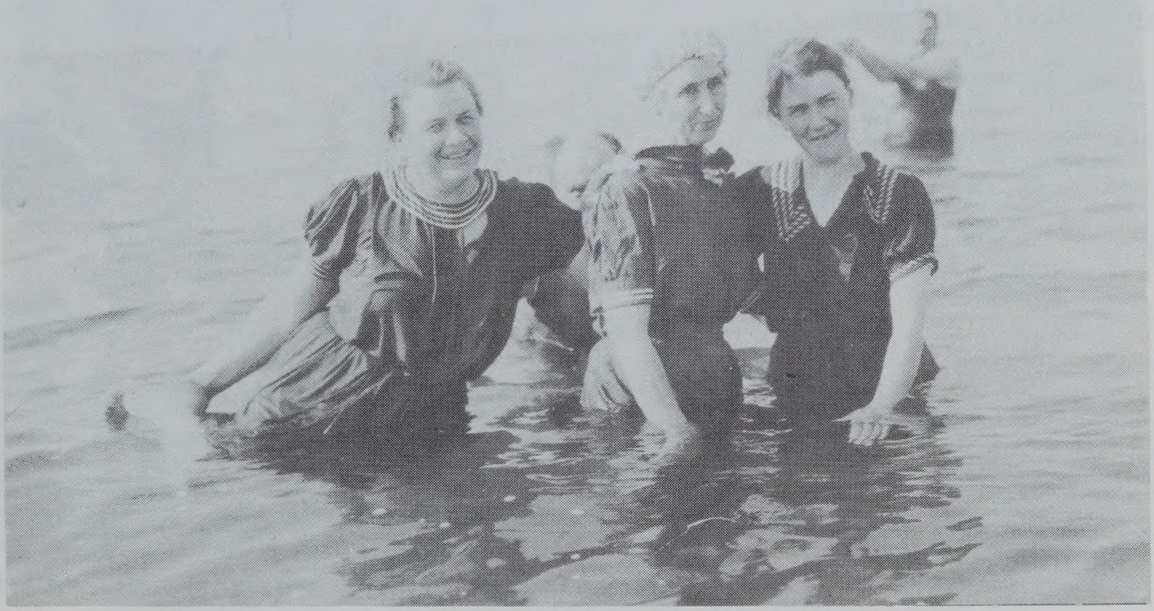
1981 - The Moriarty family dressed in period customes for the opening of their newly renovated cabin.



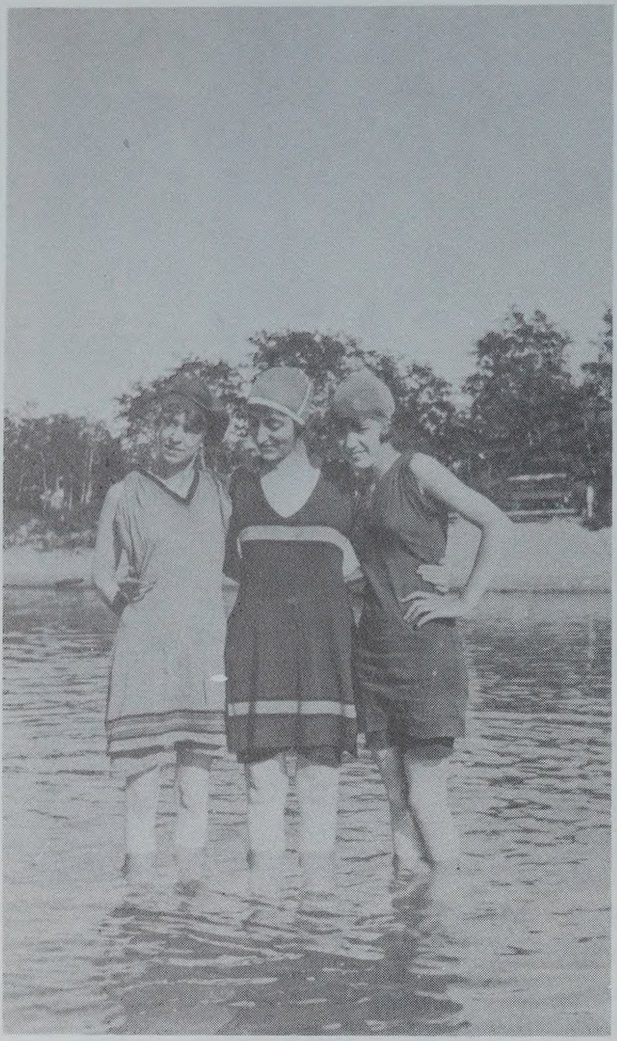
1916 - Four members of the Rimby Girls' Club go swimming while camping at Gull Lake.



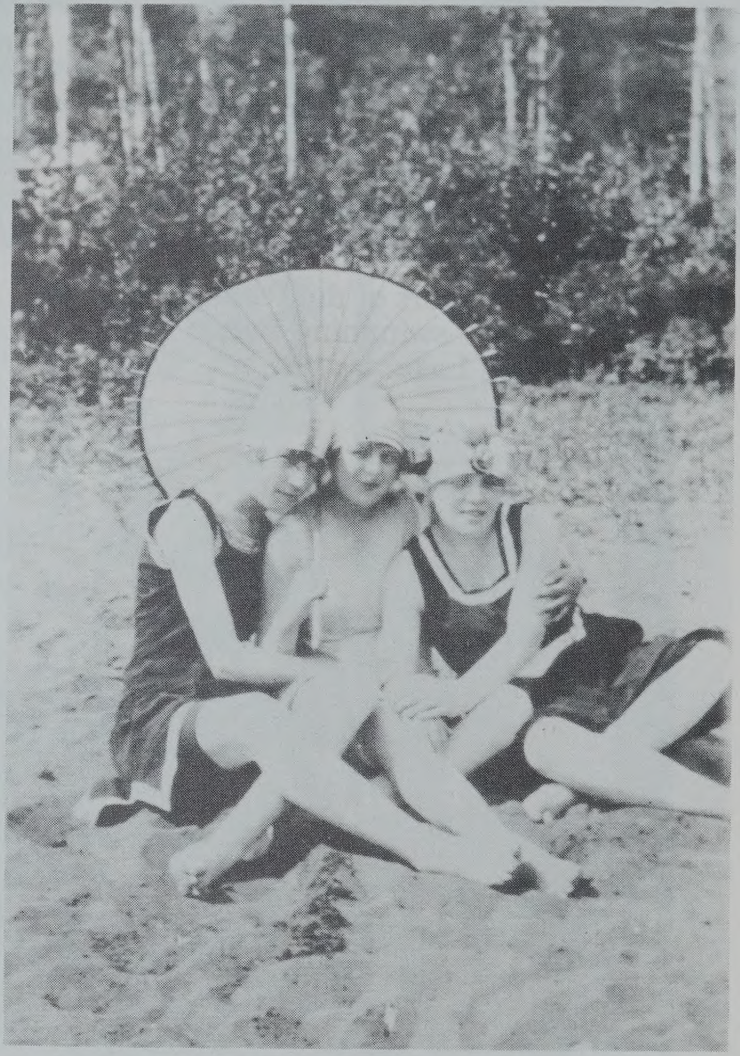
1920 - Mrs. G. C. Robinson ready to dive while Max Palmer rows the boat. (Note the stockings and swimming hat).



1920 - Mrs. G. C. Robinson, Mrs. J. G. Van Wart and Mrs. J. T. McDonald in swimming with Mr. G. C. Robinson and Mr. J. T. McDonald in back.



1920 - Mae McDermid, Miss Card, and Helen McQueen model bathing suits of the 1920's.

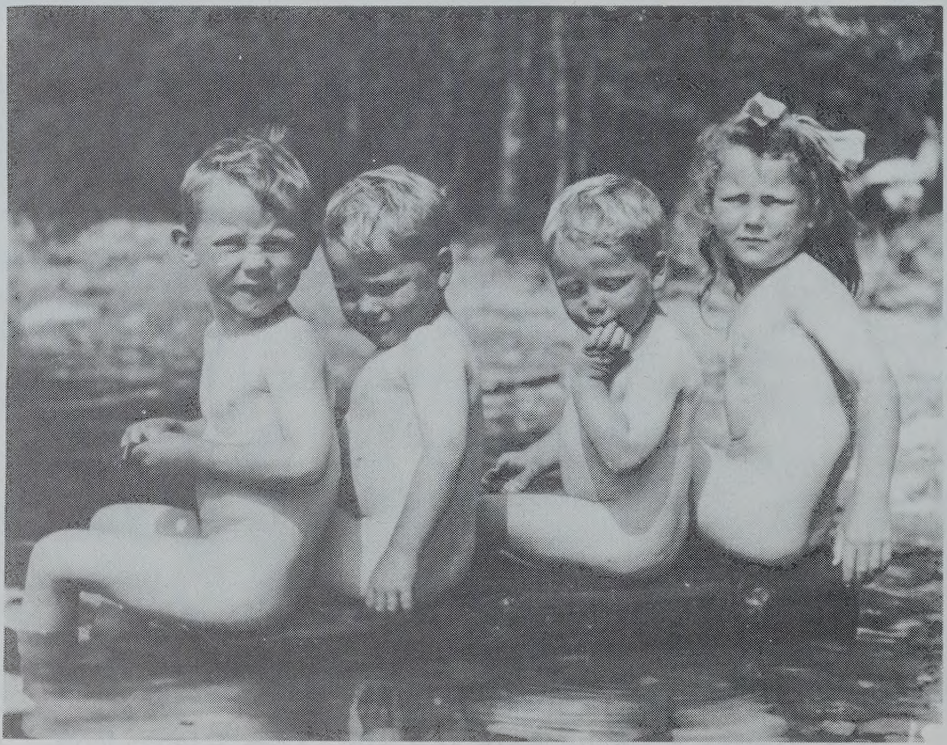


Huetta McMillan (right) and two friends pose under a parasol.

1913 - Ellsie Lynch, Vernon Barford and Agnes Lynch Barford model swim suit fashions of the times.

1934 - Allan Cody, Albert McCalla, Tom Richardson, Bob Reikie, Peter McCalla, and Bus McCalla in "modern" one-piece bathing suits.

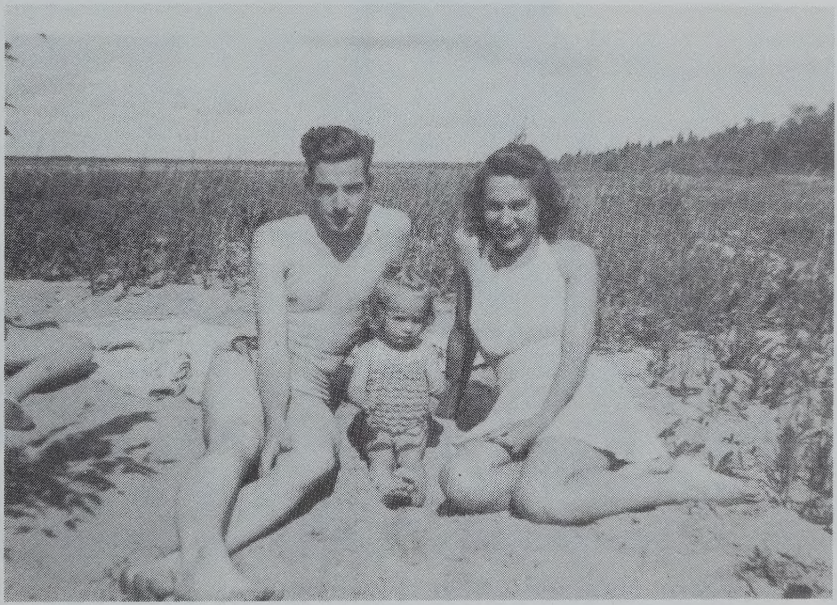
The young boy on the right is James McFadyen with friend in children's wool bathing suits.



1913 - The Barford children, Tommy, Jack, Jim, and Marjorie, forgot their bathing suits, but that didn't keep them from enjoying the water.

1930 - Dora Wallace and Theo Williams model beach wear.

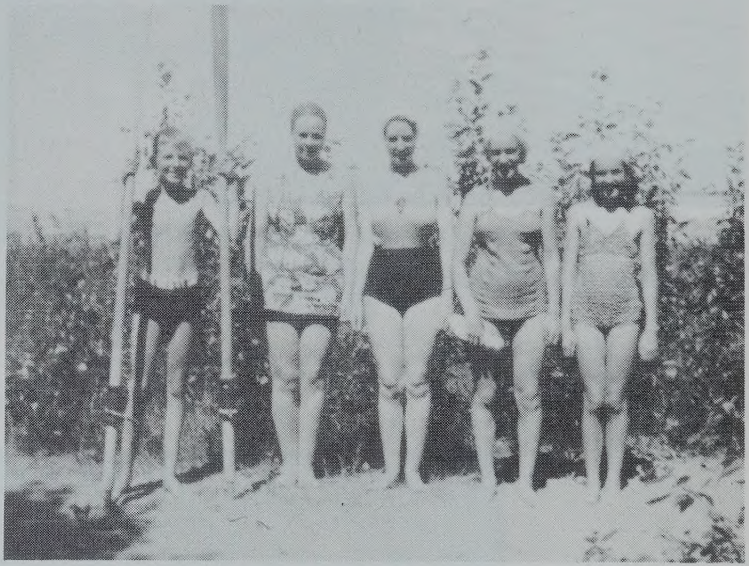
1942 - Myrtle Johnson, Peggy Johnson, Dora Wallace Williams, Shirley Williams, and Denny Williams pose on the beach.

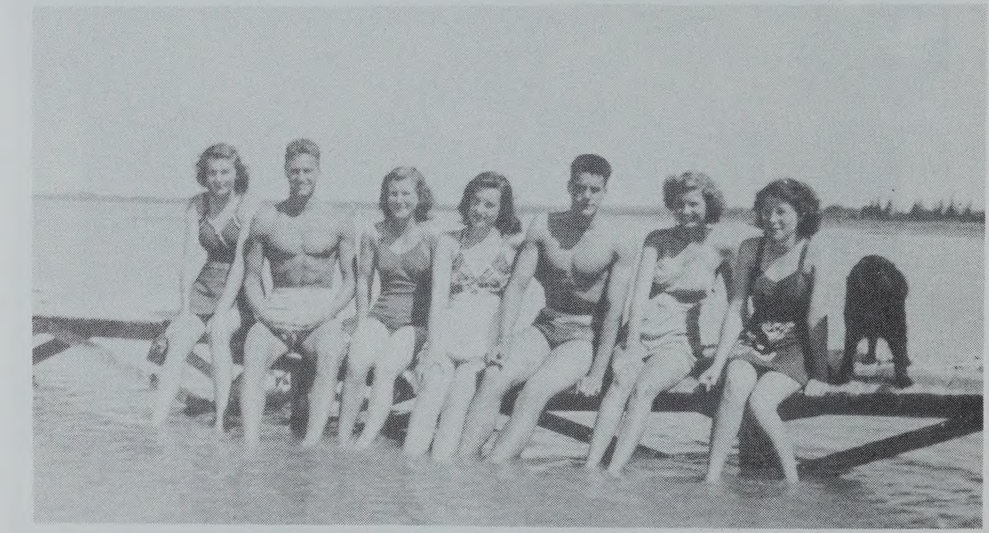


1945 - Bill Halpen, Carol Halpen and Marguerite Bowen Halpen sunning themselves on the beach.

1942 - Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Stapells, Dr. J.W. Richardson, and Fred Stapells wearing the typical black bathing suits of the period.

1943 - Bill Robertson, Dunny Robertson, Peggy Robertson, Yvonne Skinner, and Catherine Richardson model the type of bathing suits worn by younger people.

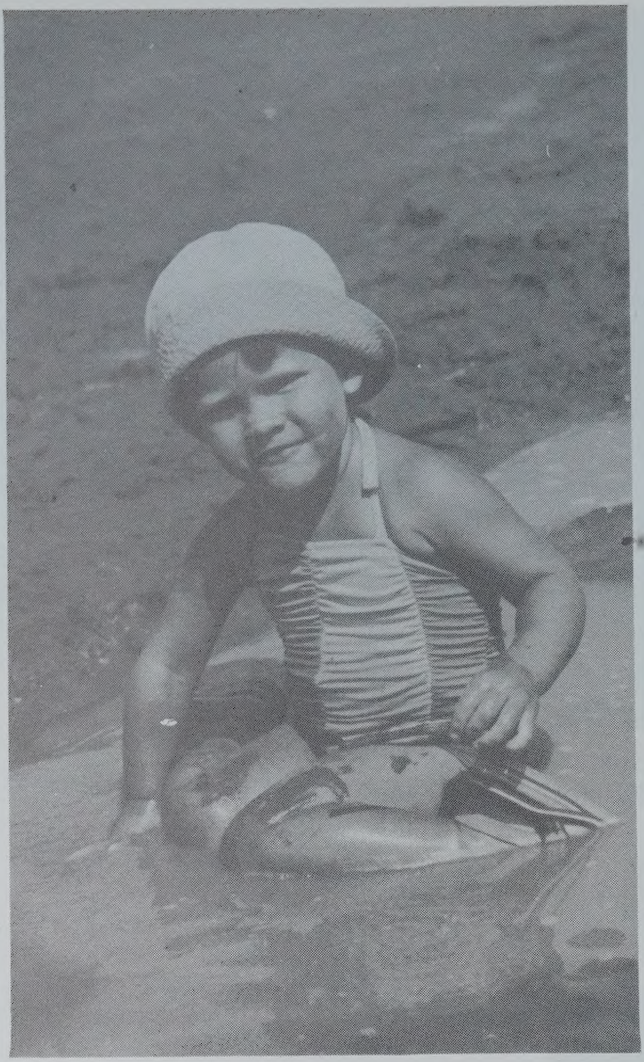




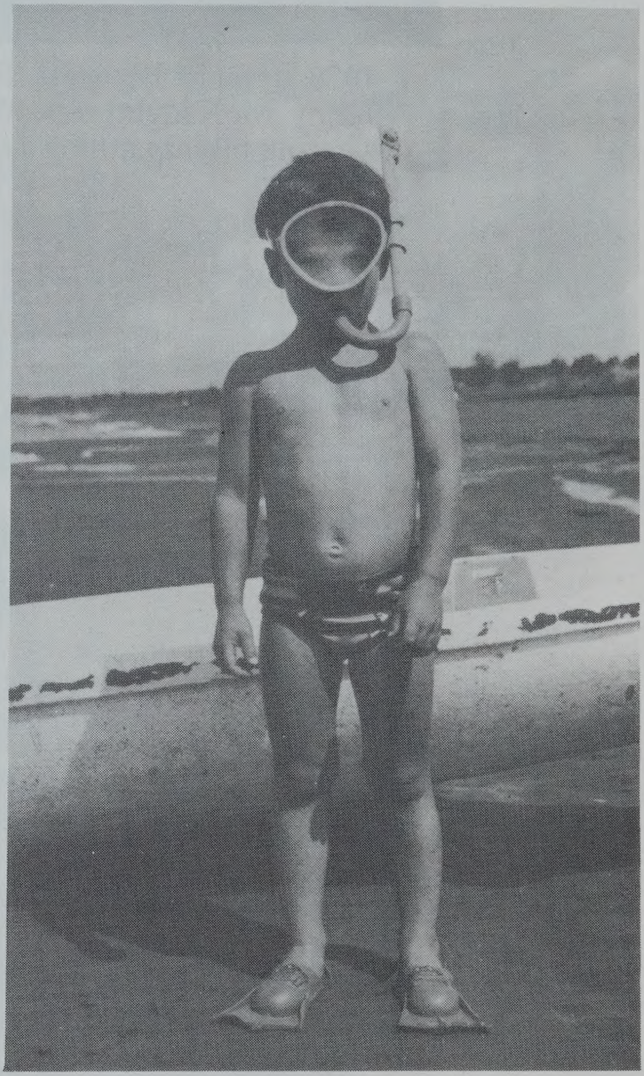
1943 - Sue Saucier, Milt Harradence, Joan Arnold, Catherine Richardson, Don Skinner, Shirley Wilson, Ethel Frizzell sunning on the dock.

1976 - Nancy Blackett, Edith Blackett, Lori McNaught, Jenny McNaught, Joycelyn Ellis and Cathy McNaught wearing bikini bathing suits.

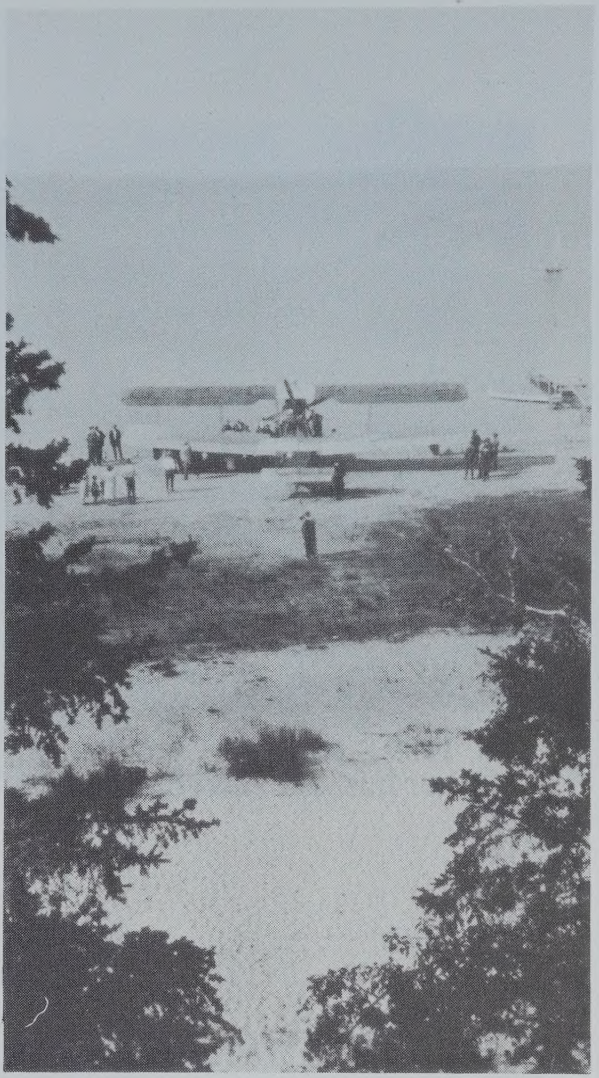
1987 - Kelly Brown and Morna Moriarty Brown illustrate the black bathing suit is back in style.



1986 - Emily Gerrard looks very fashionable with her matching hat and thongs.



1986 - Willy Gerrard, a young frogman with his mask,snorkel and fins.



1924 - A Vickers Amphibian plane at Gull Lake.
(Picture taken from second floor of the Lake View Hotel).

1924 - Pilot Colin (Jack) Caldwell (left), Kay Campbell and Earl Halpin (in foreground) examining the plane.

1939 - Rowena Campbell in front of the plane built by her husband, Lawrence Campbell.

Amphibian planes were popular at Gull Lake.

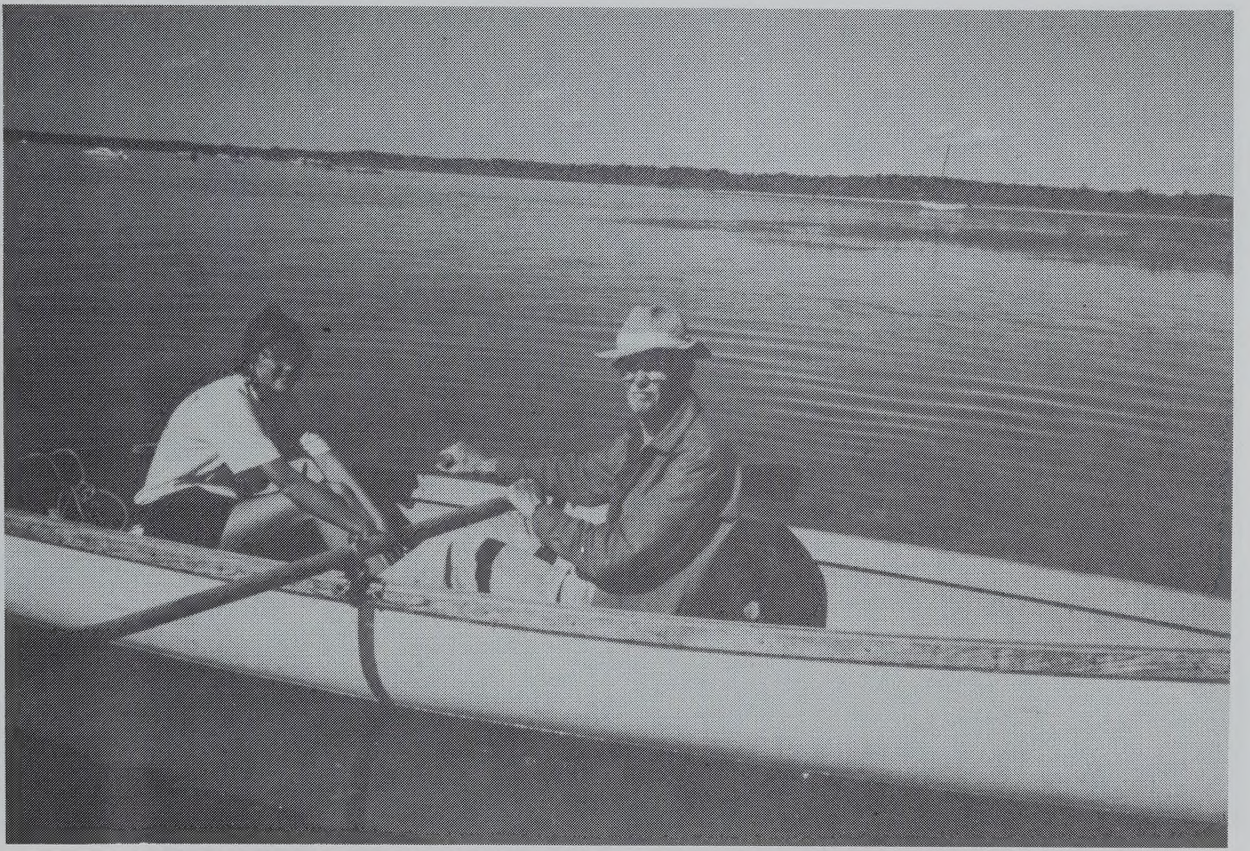
1908 - Ellsie Lynch and her sister, Agnes Lynch Barford, canoeing on the lake.

1915 - Austin Beck, Jim Emery,Cyril Beck, Mrs. Beck, (back row) Marjorie Beck, Mr. Emery, Mrs. Emery, Howard Emery, (standing) and Beatrice Beck, boating at the lake.

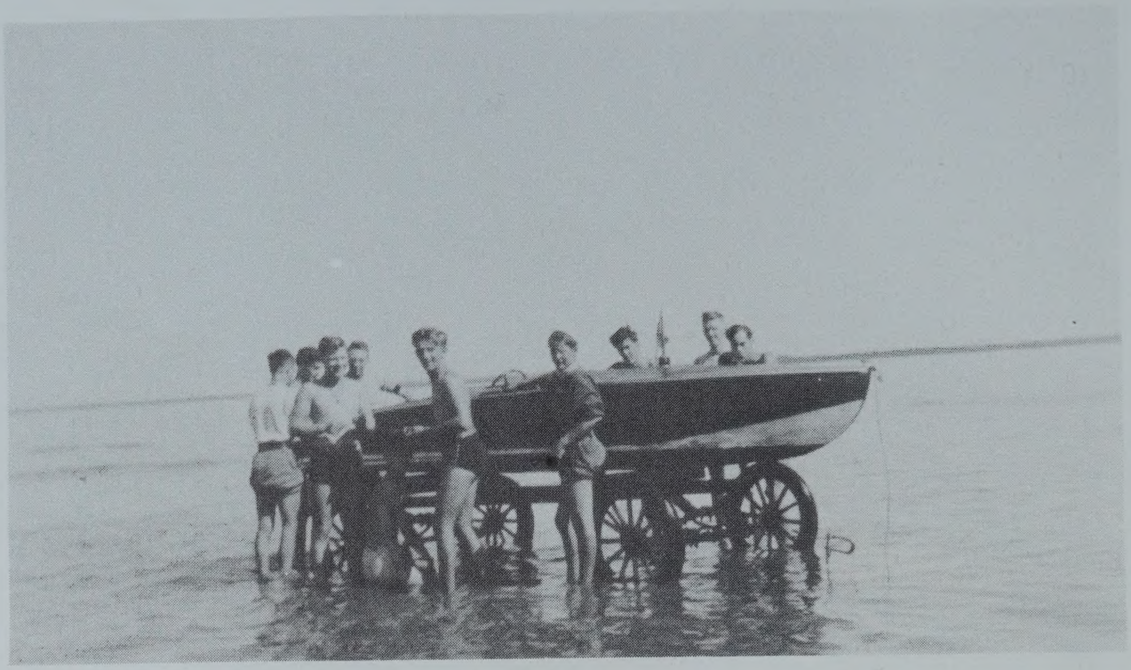
Early sail boat.

A full boat!

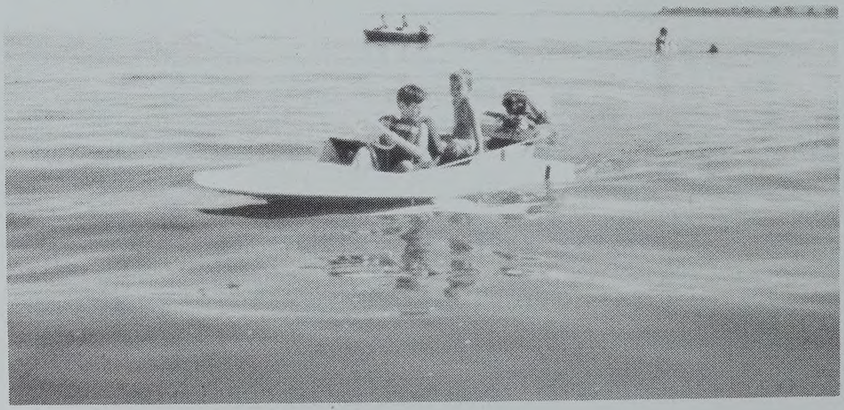
1982 - Jenny McNaught and Geoff Gold in her kayak.



1986 - Jenny McNaught and her grandfather, Stanley Clark, in his row boat.

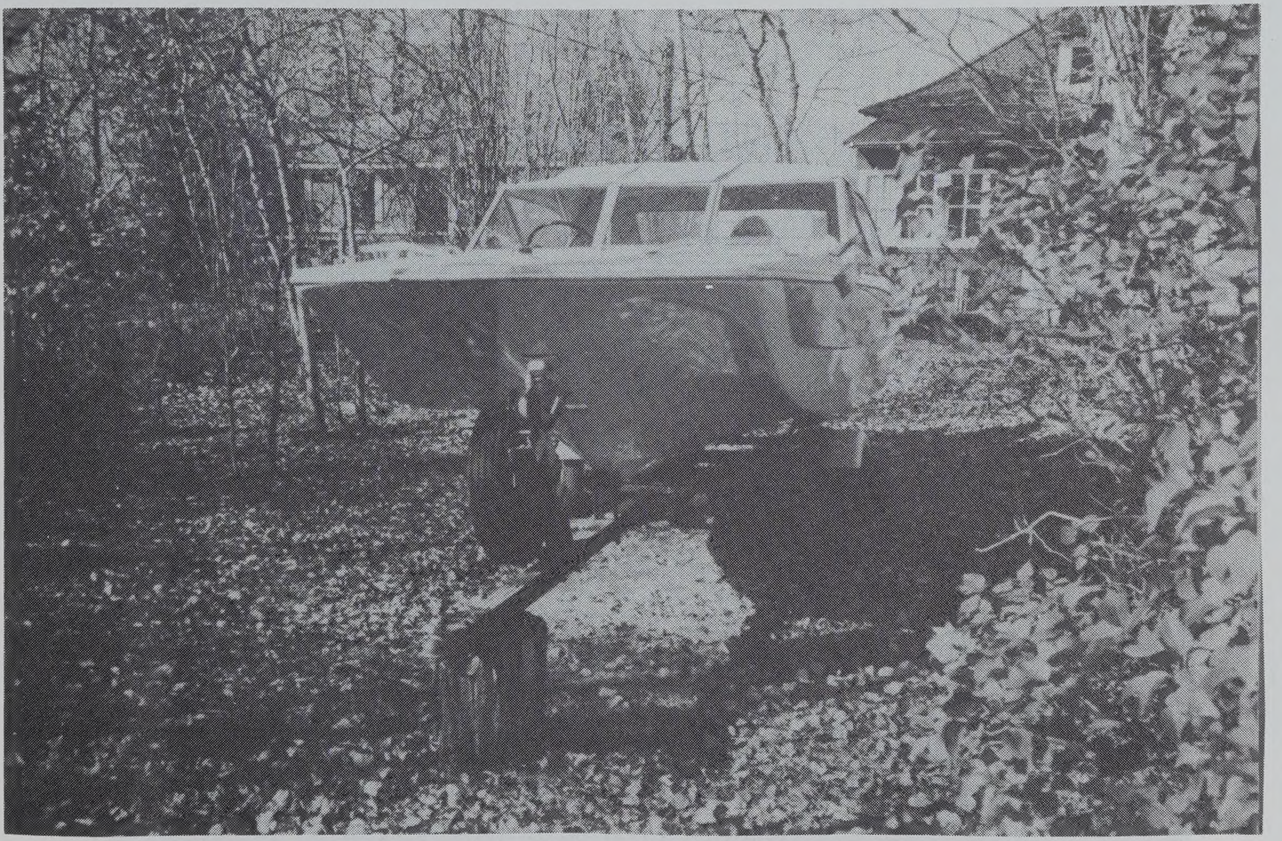


1936 - Bill McGillivray and friends with his motor boat.



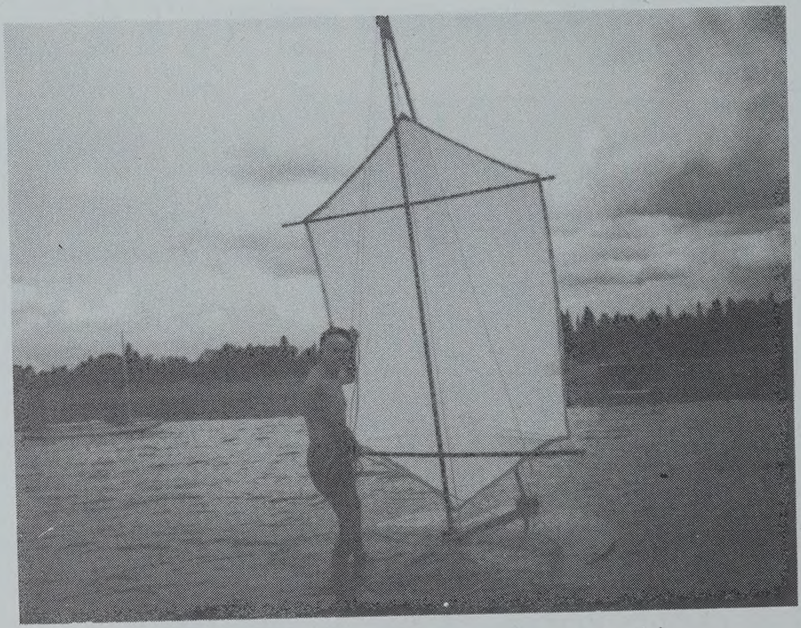
Guy and Robbie Bowen in their speed boat.

1980 - Donald Dagg water skiing.



Fall 1987 - The end of the boating season for another year for the Campbell boat.

1983 - Jerry Williamson and friend, Bob Whyte, enjoy a sail.



1963 - Tom Richardson with his homemade early wind surfer.

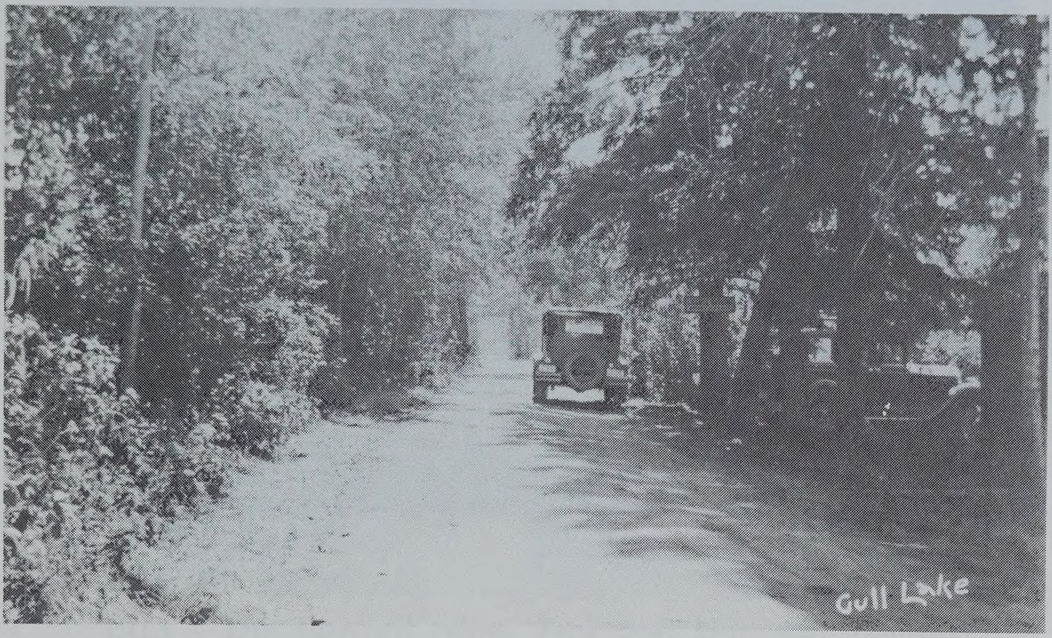
1985 - Allan Southgate and Rod Harradence with modern wind surfers.

1986 - Catherine, Christopher and Morna Moriarty Brown heading for shore.

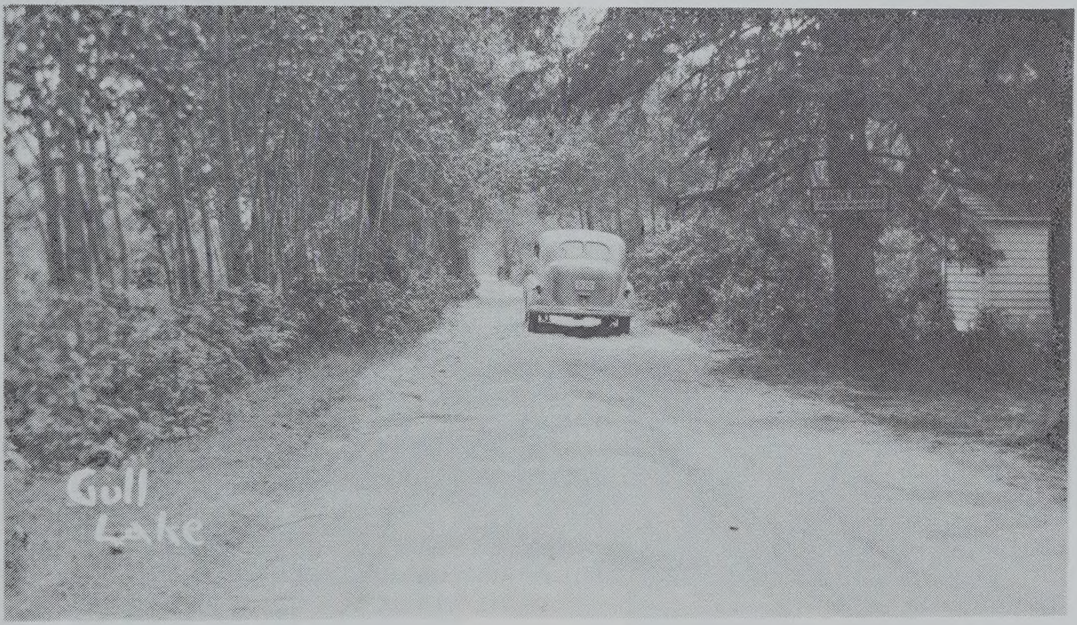
1919 - Arriving at the Lake in style.

1918 - George and Martha Wallace and friends with one of the first cars at Gull Lake.

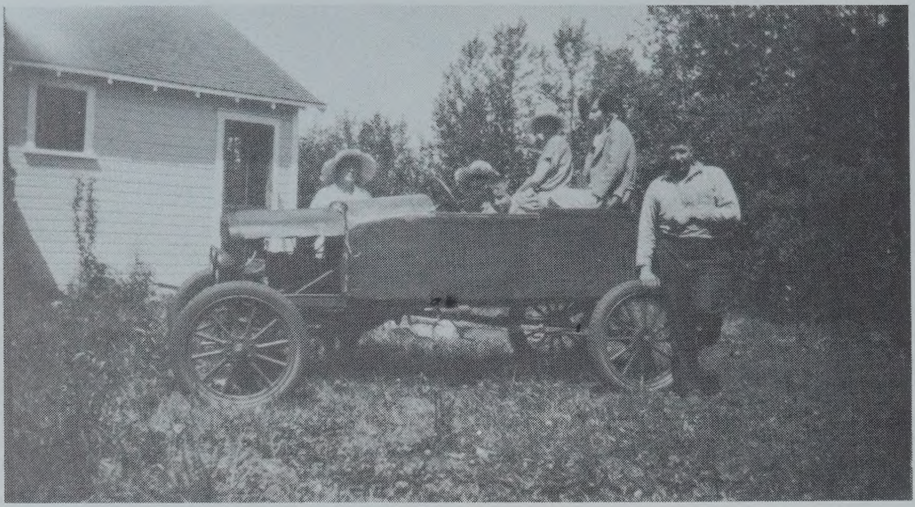
Premier Avenue - a span of ten years.



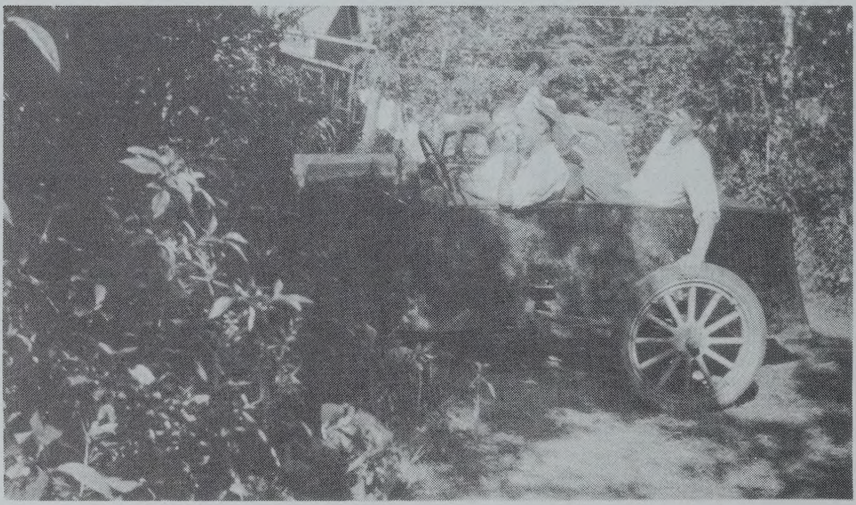
1920's



1930's



1936 - Young people at the lake enjoy Bill McGillivray's car "Sophia, the Bug", which was a model T Ford chassie with homemade body.



FUN ON THE BEACH AND IN THE WATER

1913 - The Barford twins, Jack and Jim, and Tommy Barford off to play in the sand.

1923 - Bunty Sutherland looking for a spot to dig.

1987 - Emily Gerrard still finds the beach a wonderful place to play.

1932 - Dora Wallace (center) and Theo Williams (right) and friends stuck in the sand.

1985 - Norval Horner, Morna Moriarty Brown, and Patrick Horner having a water fight.

1940 - Ron and Don Williams floating on inner tubes.

Gull Lake slide was popular with the children.

1938 - Ted Willis and Bill McGillivray with their catch.

1987 - Douglas Horner and Catherine Brown fishing for minnows.

1943 - Bill Howson, Marg Howson Craig, and Gardner Craig building an impressive bonfire.

Syd Sutherland and Bill Trusdale pose in front of their bonfire

1987 - Catherine Moriarty helps her grandchildren toast marshmallows.

Sand Castles

1915 - Bessie Miles and Rev. Irwin build a sand castle.

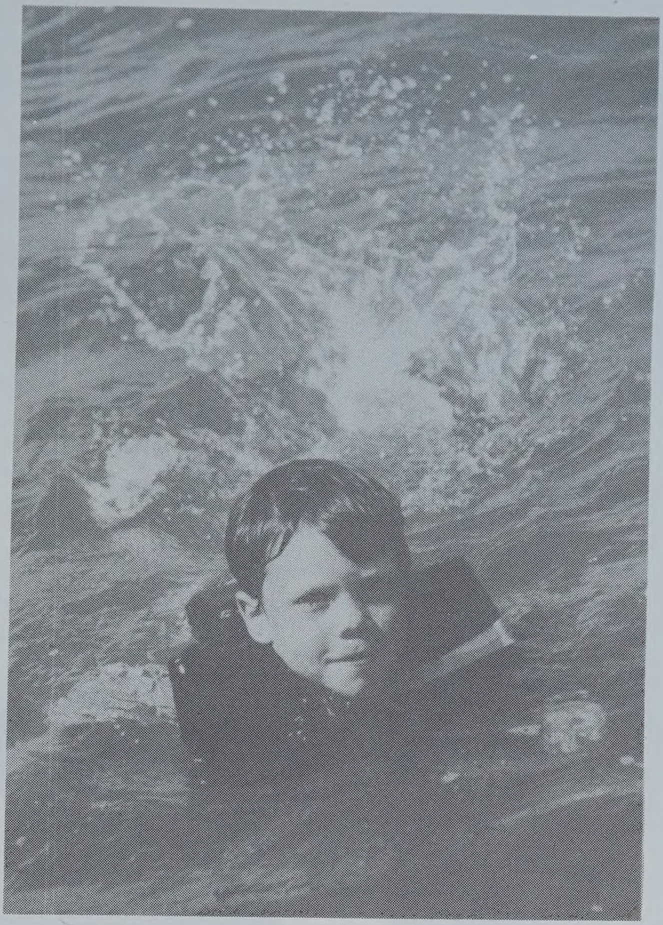
1934 - Babs Hyndman holding the small camera that she won for her prize - winning sand castle at competition at the annual regatta.

1986 - A work of art!

1987 - Brina, Erin and Michael Moriarty building a village in the sand.

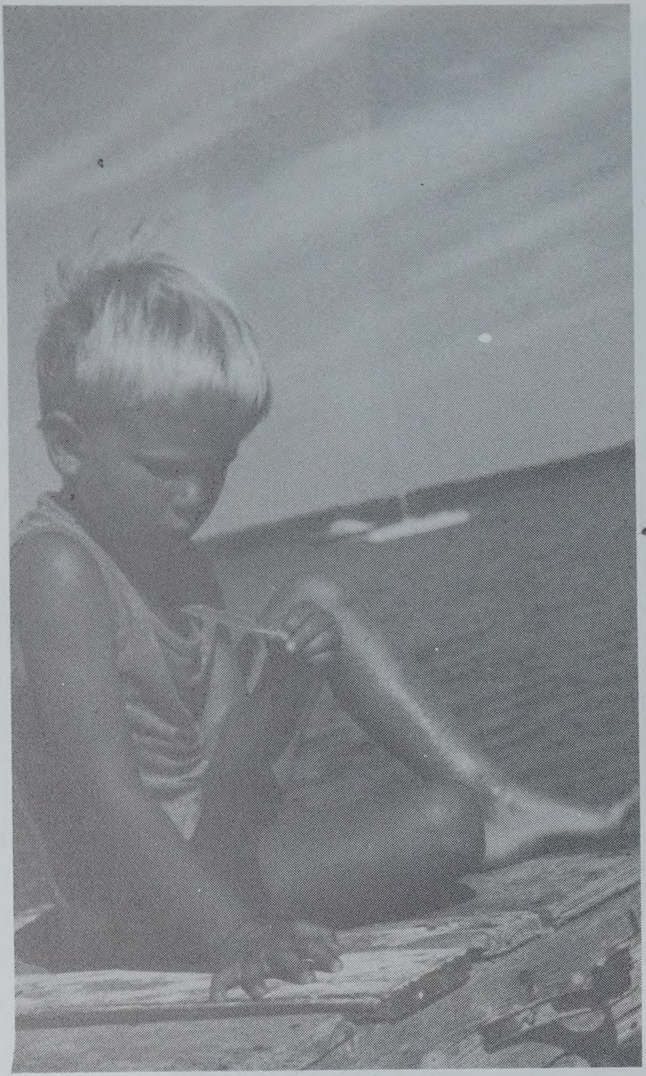
1969 - Bobby Brown and Susan Grace enjoy the sun and water.

1986 - Douglas Horner, Christopher Brown, and Robbie Horner playing in the water.

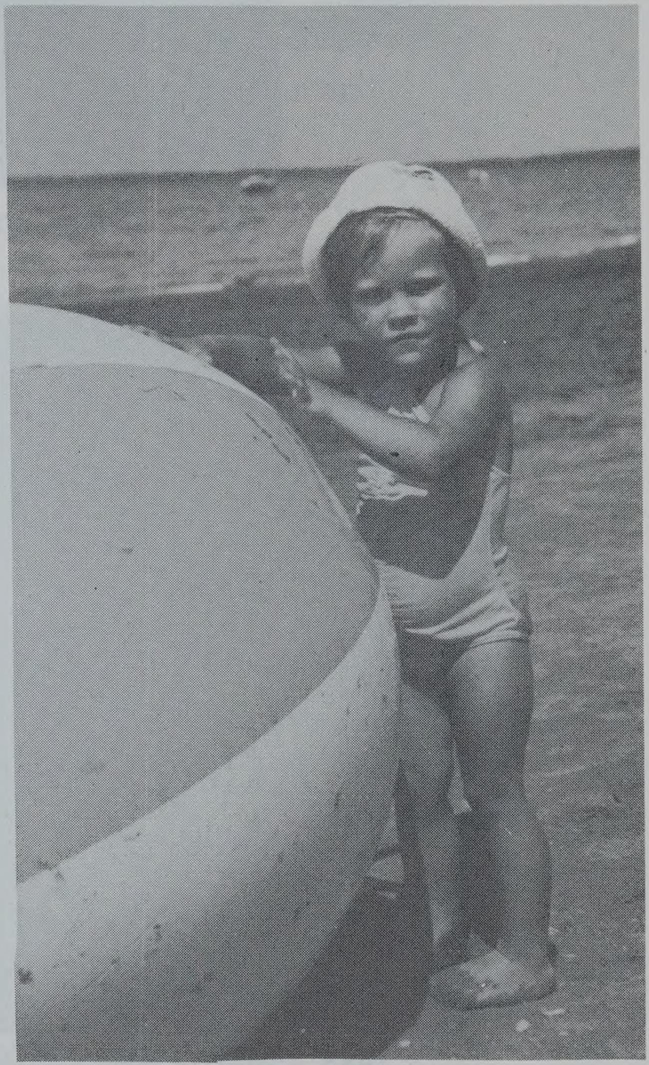


1985 - Willy Gerrard learning to swim.

1985 - Marcie and Kerrie Moriarty floating on an air mattress.

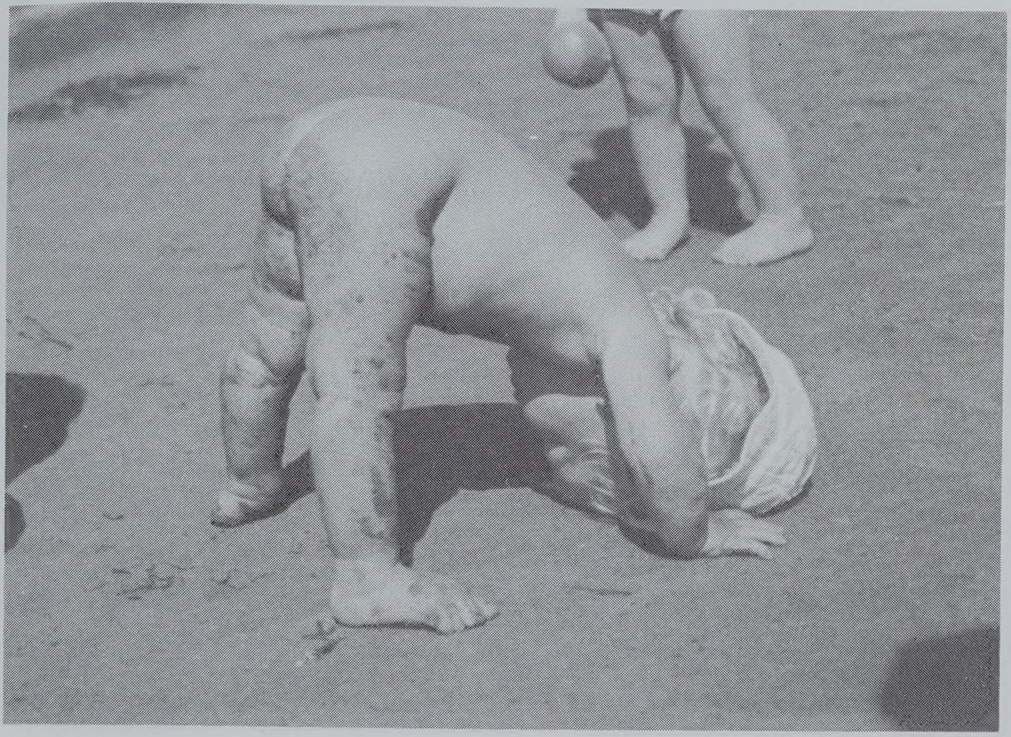


1985 - Douglas Horner blowing on a feather.



1986 - Emily Gerrard with large beach ball.

1978 - Doug Williamson and Christy McDonough off for a swim.

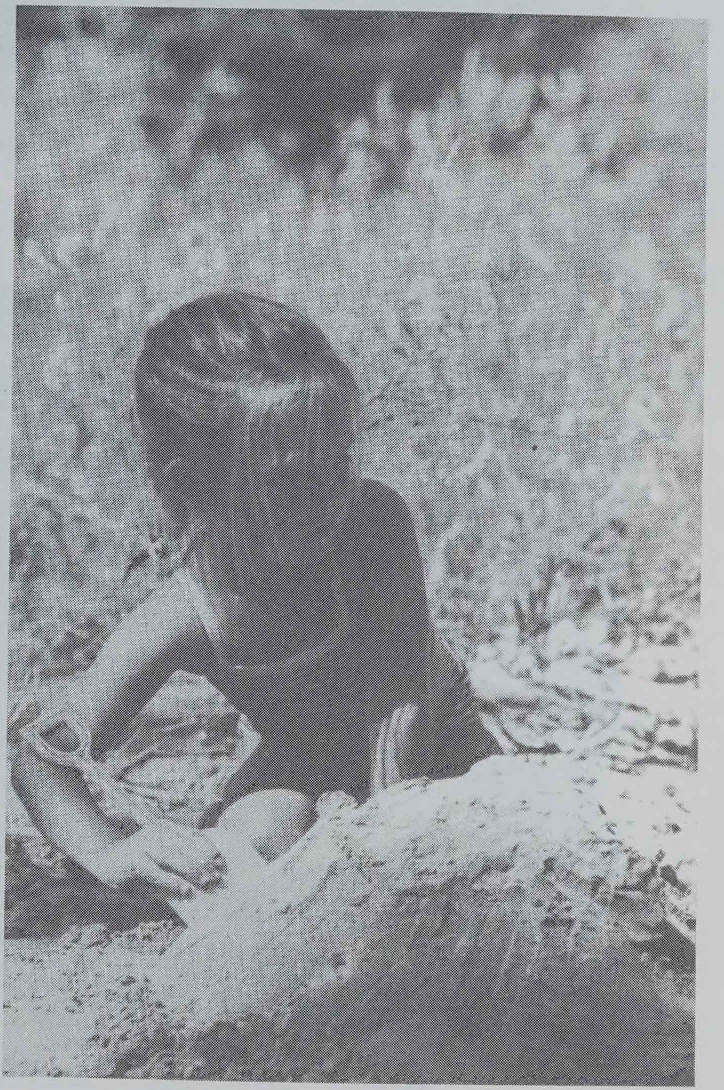


1983 - Christopher Brown wearing a hat.

1985 - Robbie and Douglas Horner sitting on the Village tractor.

1987 - Michael Moriarty building a road for his tractor.

1985 - Catherine Brown helps with the dishes.



1985 - Catherine Brown enjoys the beach.

1985 - Marcie Moriarty and Patrick Horner playing on the rope swing.

1987 - Mary Campbell ready to go to the store on her bike.

1980 - Misty Leasak, Braden Kilpatrick, and Kelly Kilpatrick seated on their A.T.C.

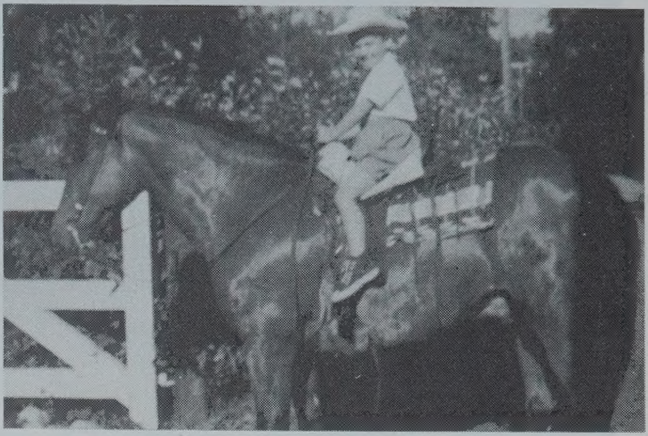
1987 - The McNaught - Campbell gang enjoy the sand and their trampoline.

1985 - Cathie and Rod Harradence working on their tans.

1985 - Amy McLachlan, Patrick Horner, and Robbie Horner (standing) Norval Horner and Tim McLachlan (seated) launching a rocket.

1986 - Adults enjoy playing on the beach too.

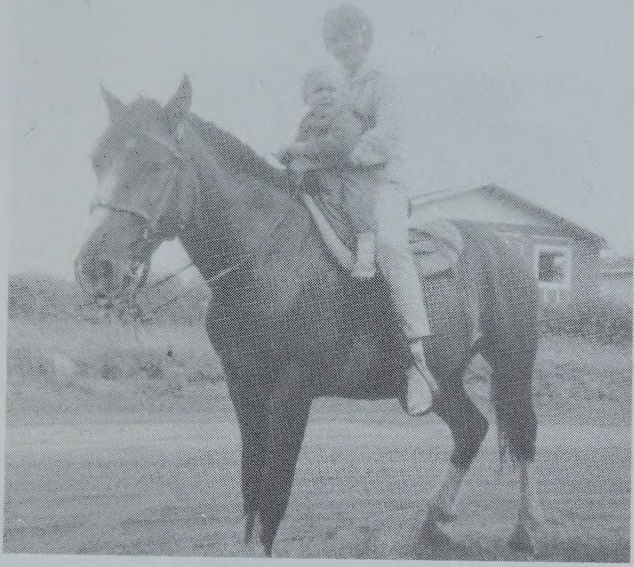
1986 - Monty and Rene' Desreaux's annual bridge club weekend at the lake.



1966 - Jim Moriarty on Cap who was rented from the Hug farm for $30.00 per month.

1939 - Eve Walker and Marion Oldrey in front of Mitchell's store.

1976 - Robbie Bowen and Doug Williamson on Shetland ponies rented at Rim Rock.



1964 - Cathy McNaught and Terry Connell on Pepper.

1965 - Michelle Desreaux on Paint and Cathy Connell on Pepper.

1978 - Sandra Grace, Joanne MacDonald, and Betty George out for a ride.

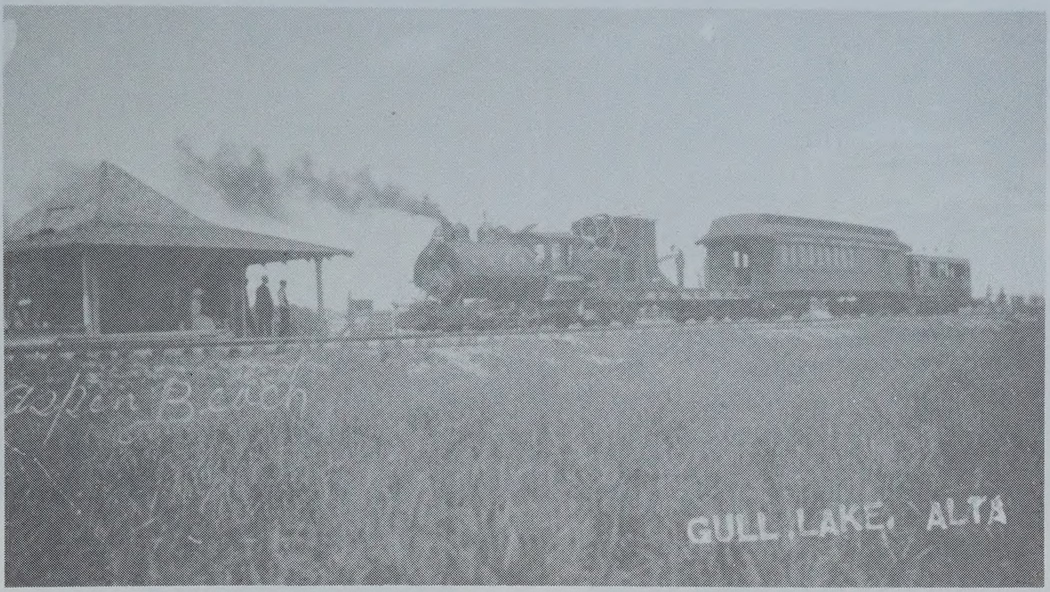
January 1935 - Rowena Campbell skiing behind their car on the lake.

1969 - Lynn, Marg and Bill Craig skating on the lake.

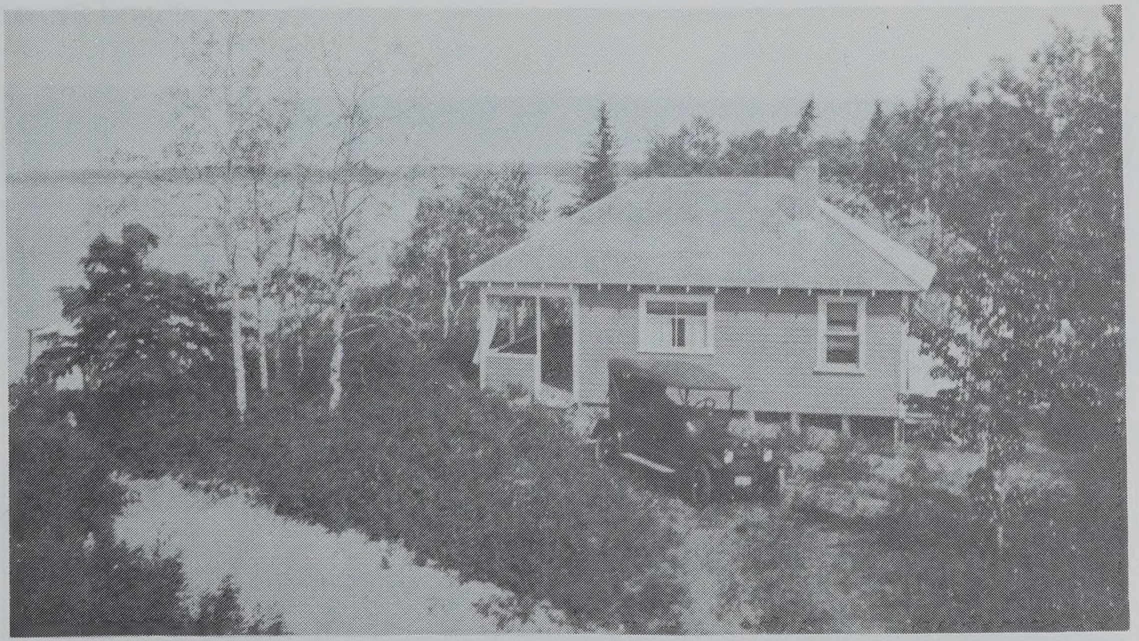
1978 - Elizabeth, David and Gord Craig cross-country skiing on the lake road.

1984 - Gerry, Stephen and Terry Lee Gunn, skidooing at the Lake.

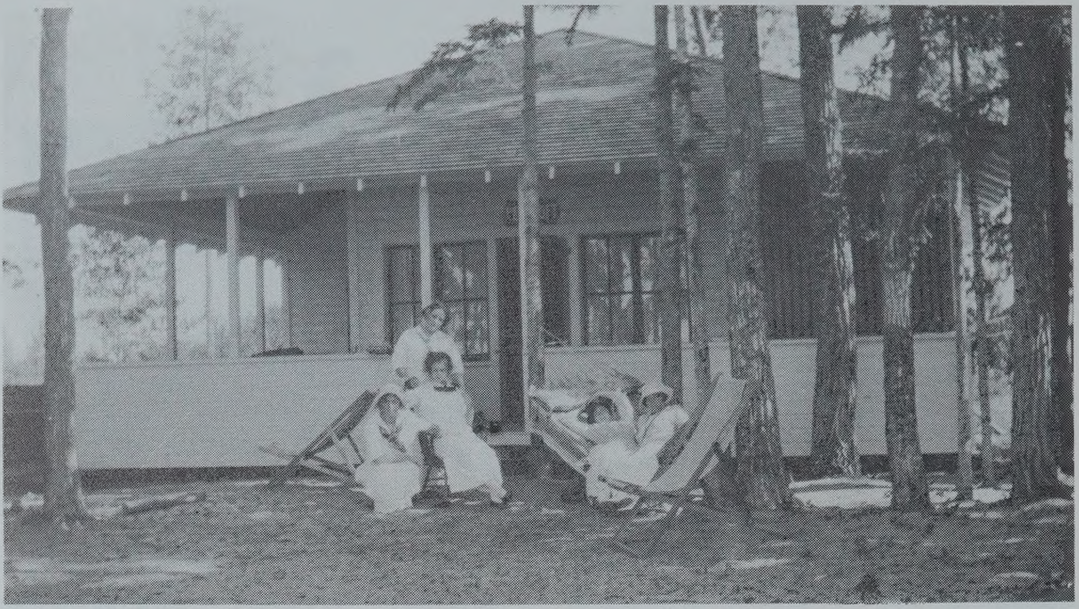
DO YOU REMEMBER.....?



1918 - "The Peanut" arrives at the Aspen Beach station.



1919 - The Burris Cottage and automobile on a peaceful afternoon.



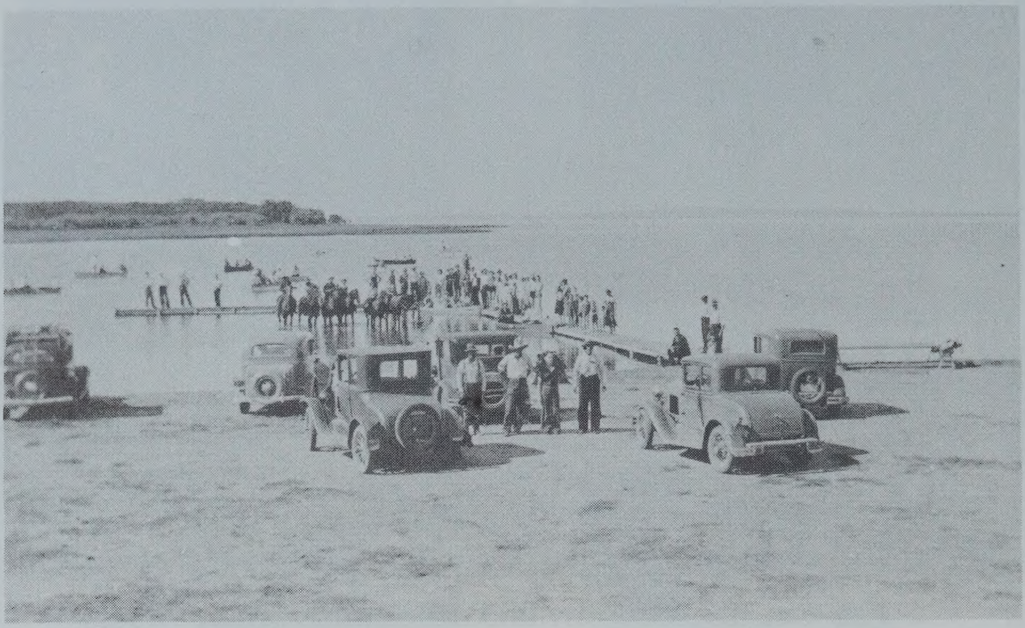
1918 - "Pegcroft" the McGillivray Cottage presents a relaxed scene.

1920 - Family and friends gather on a screened porch to celebrate Dominion Day.

1918 - Peeling the potatoes on an outside work bench.

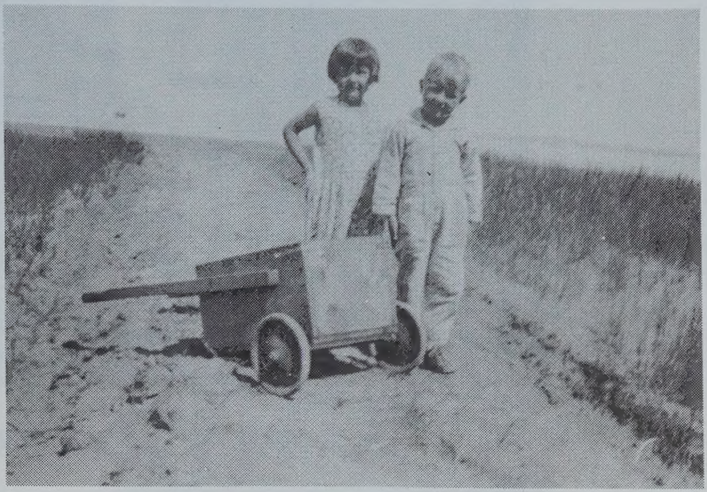
1934 - Wash day at the lake.

Cutting the brush to make room for the sheets on the clothes- line.



Early 1930's - Gull Lake was popular spot for young and old.

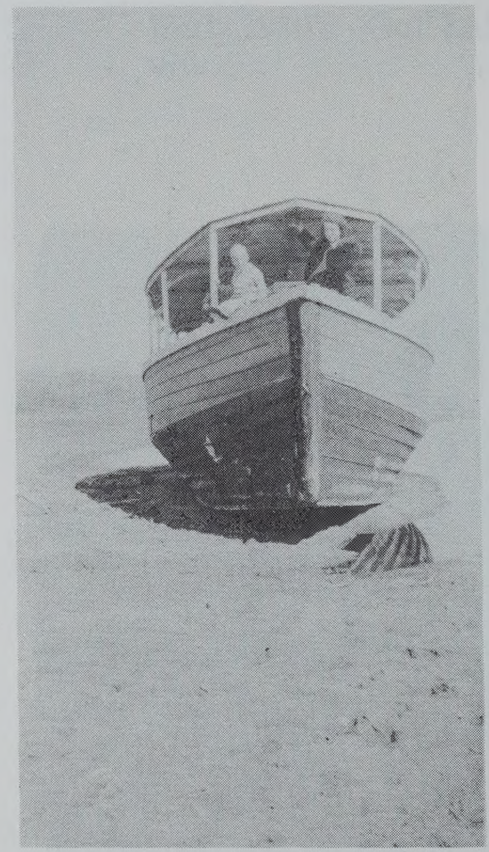
1928 - Children standing on a homemade raft.



1933 - Two youngsters playing with a wheel-barrow.

Remember the days when men wore two-piece bathing suits and ladies wore middy blouses?

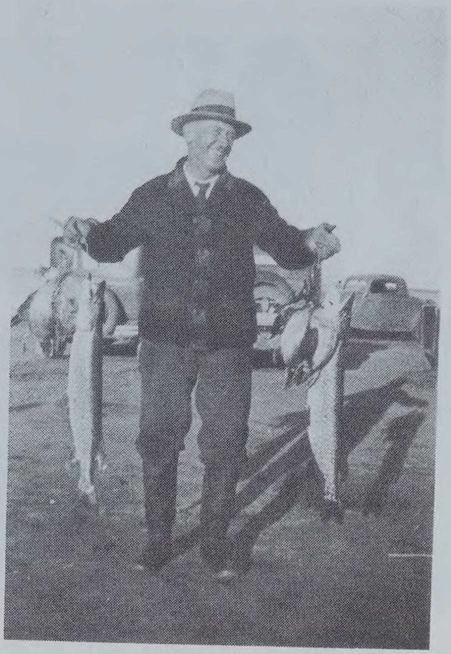
1920 - Hotel visitors walking on the pier on a windy day.



1933 - An old boat beached near the first point.

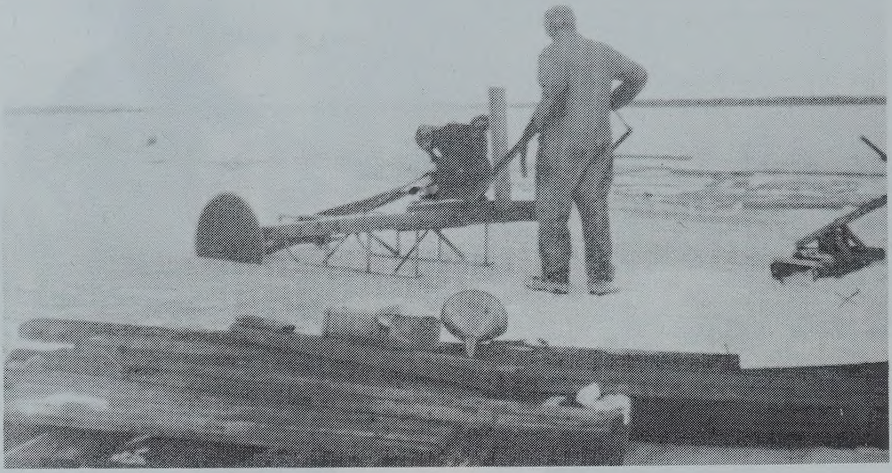
1933 - Judge McGillivray's tennis court.

1935 - Bird-houses at Ott's store.

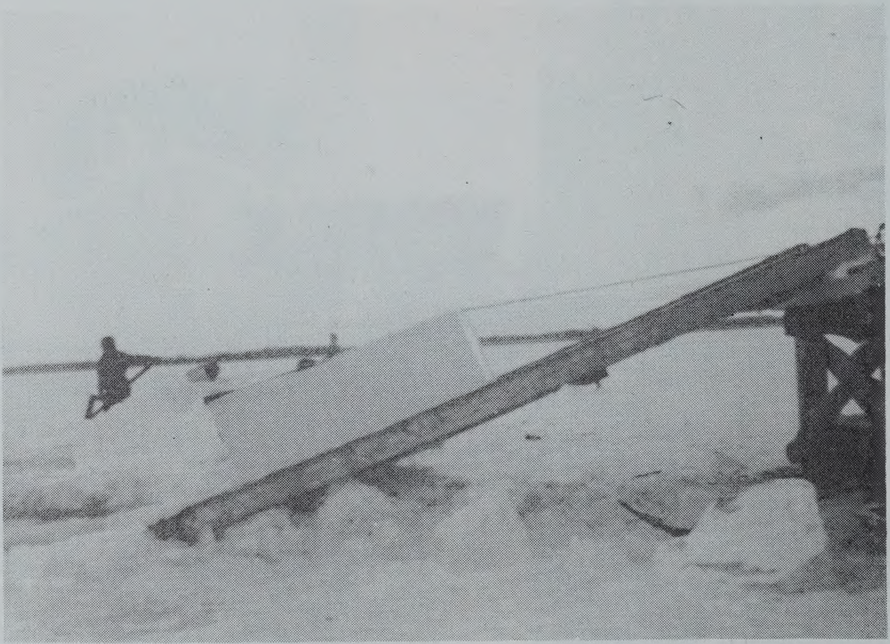


1936 - Mr. Brewer at Brewer's Beach with his catch for the day.

1935 - Ott and helpers with a wagon load of wood which sold for $30.00.

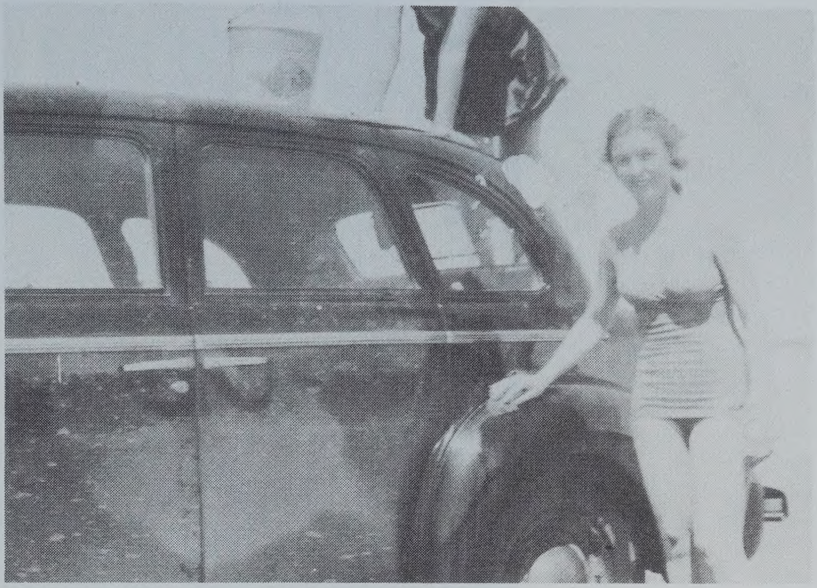


1940 - Ott marking his blocks of ice.

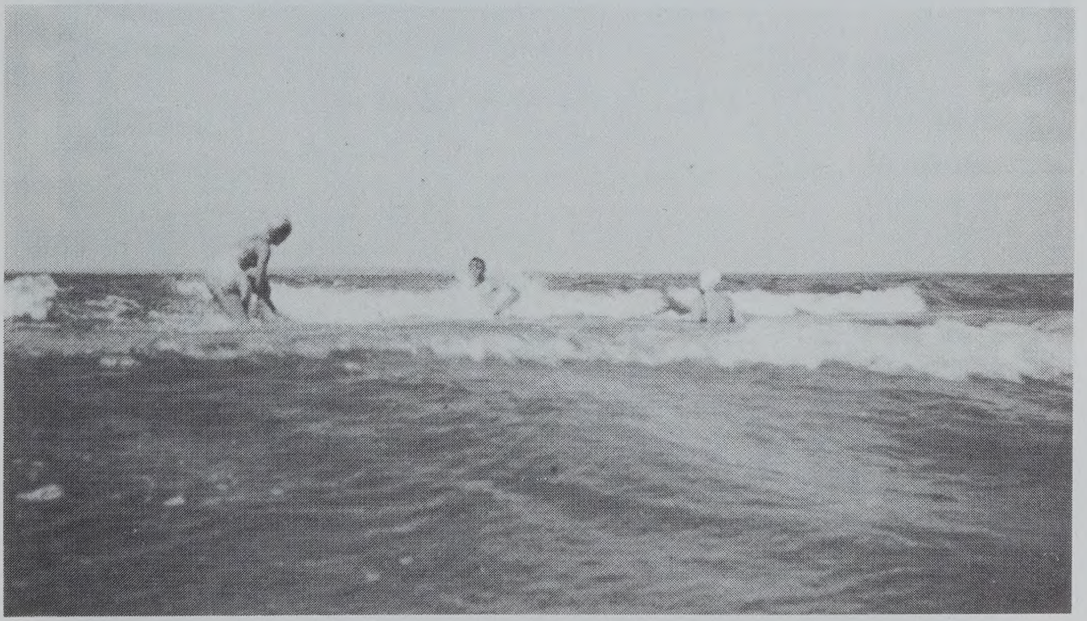


1940 - Ott's pully hauling ice blocks out of the lake.

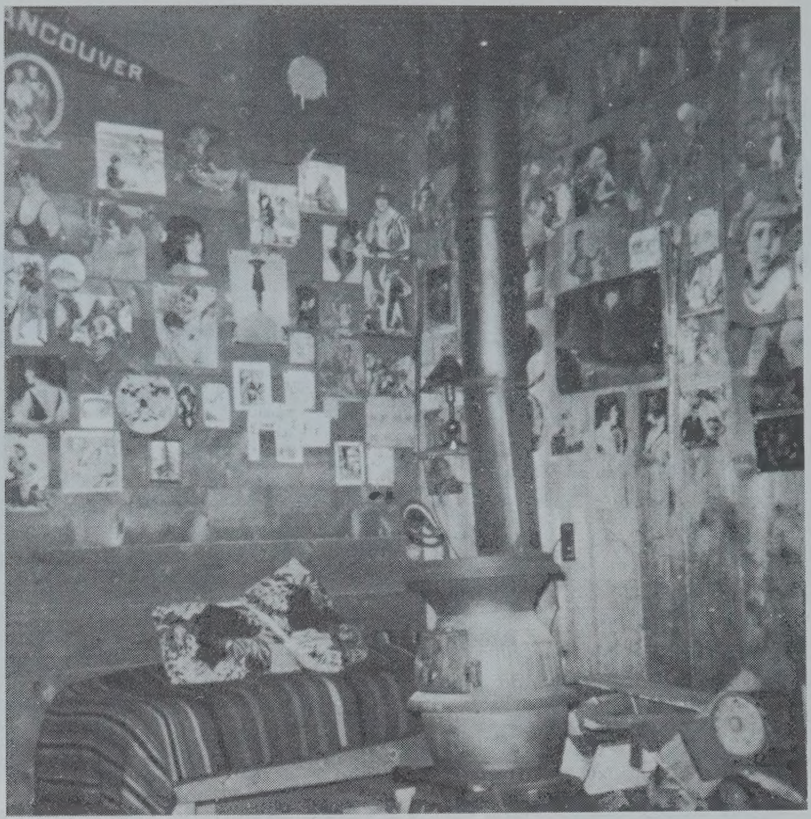
1933 - Washing your hair outside.



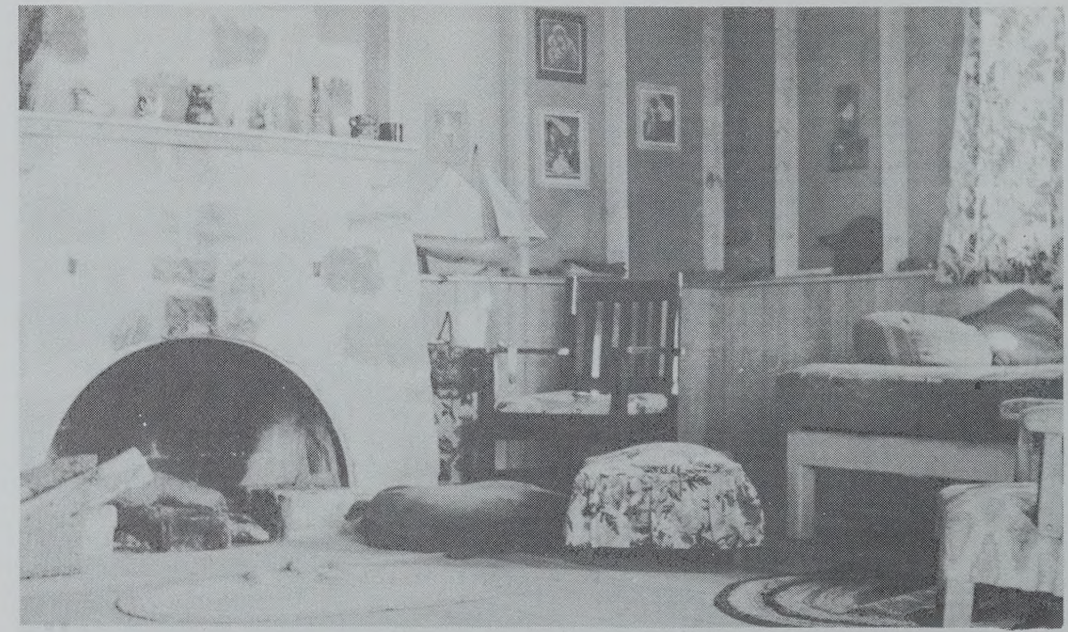
1943 - Washing the car in the lake.



1940 - Playing in the whitecaps.

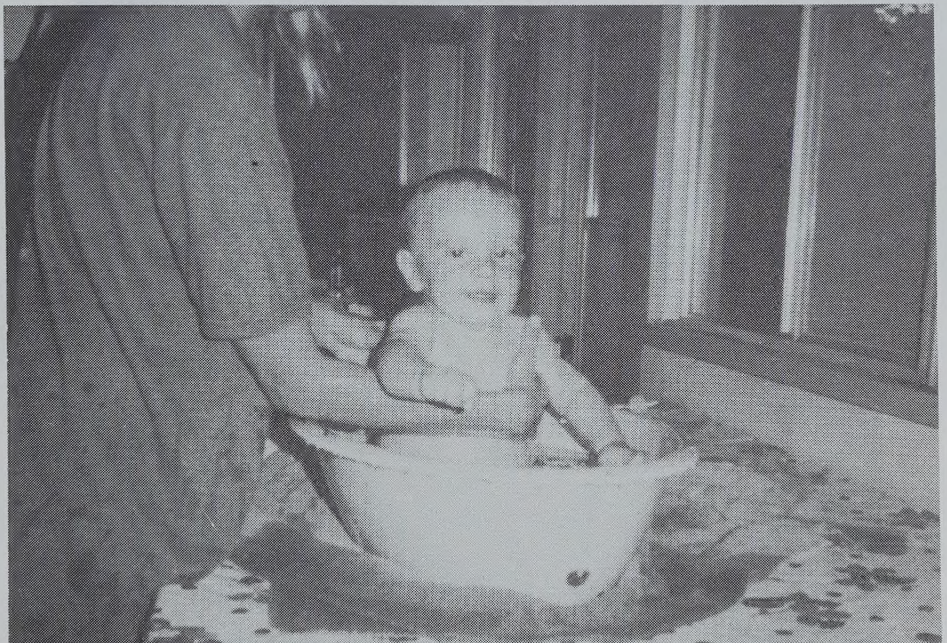


The Learmonth Cottage living room with pot-bellied stove and magazine pictures is typical of many early cabins.



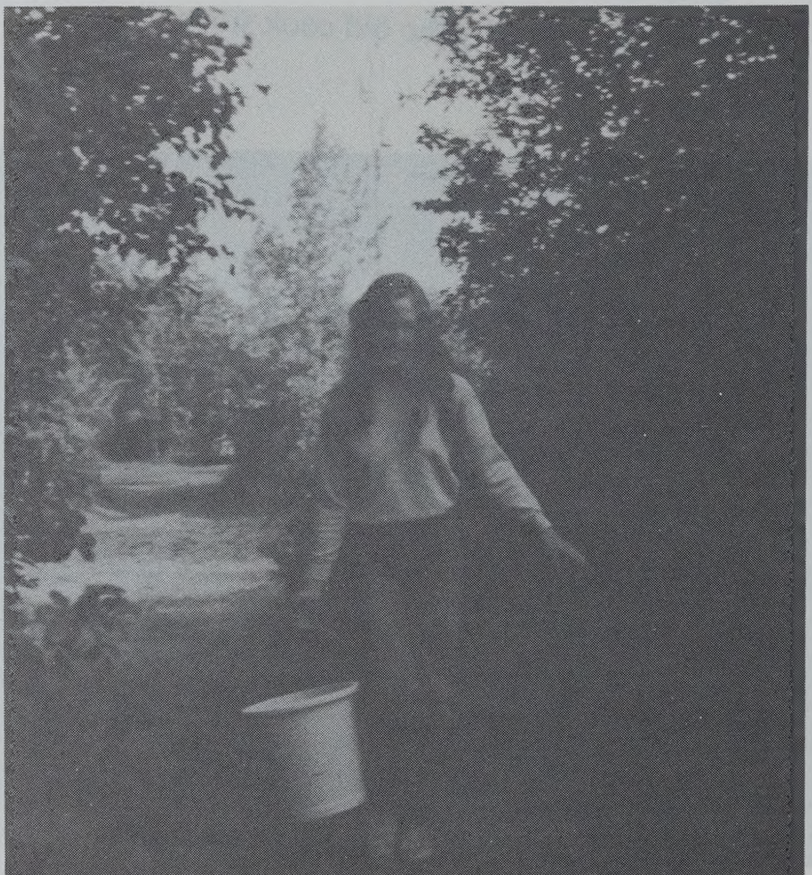
1937 - A cosy corner in the Debney Cottage with lovely stone fireplace.

Warming up by the old cook stove.

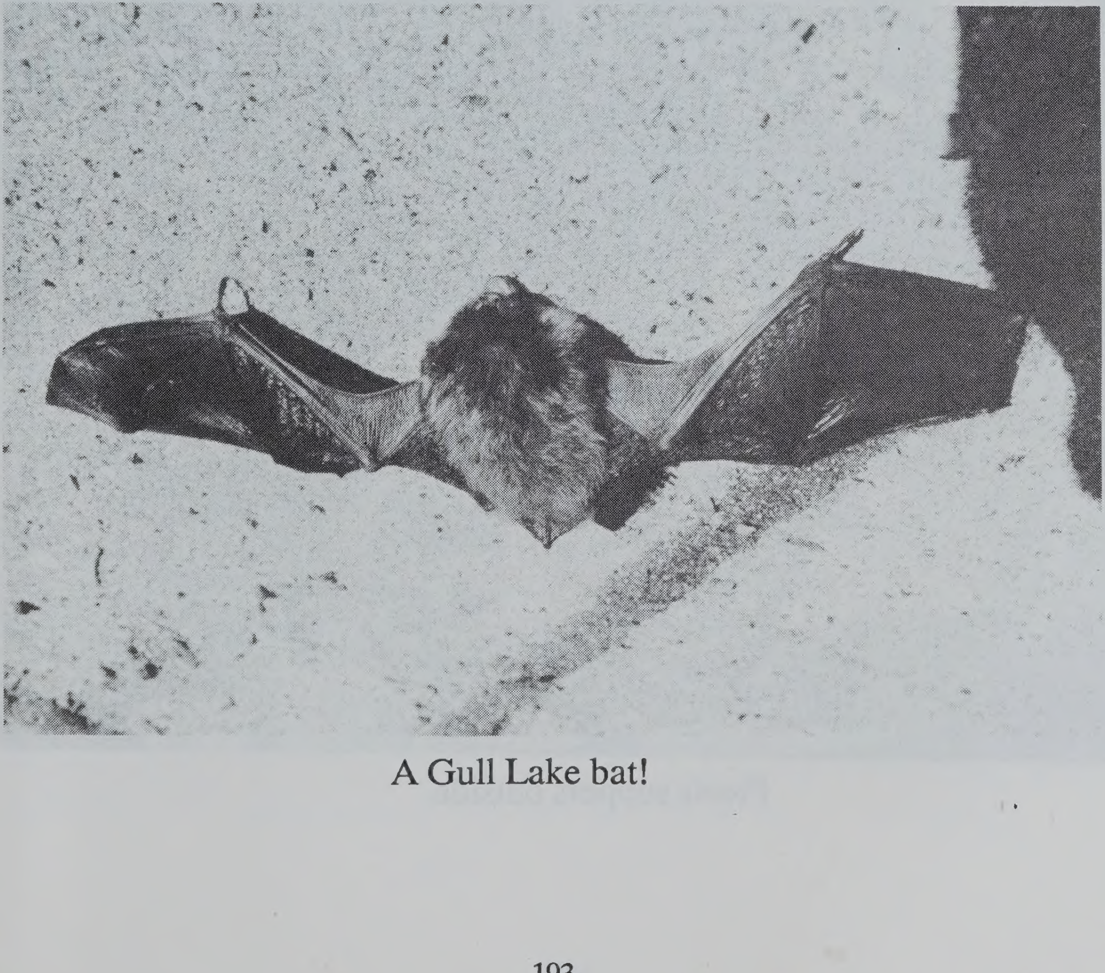


A Gull Lake bathtub!

Hauling water from the Village Pump.



Old toilets at the hall.



A Gull Lake bat!

Playing cards on rainy days.

Picnic suppers outside.

RECOLLECTIONS

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

OLIVER AVENUE

LAURA HALPIN
# 104 Oliver Avenue

As told to Bob Blackett

Laura's family lived in Lacombe where her father, C. B. Halpin, ran the newspaper. Her father built their first cottage "Brown Betty" (near Patton's store) in 1909. It was one of the early cottages in Wieseville. In 1922, her family bought the present cottage at #104 Oliver Avenue. Her father bought two lots at that time, but later sold the second one.

There were ten children in Laura's family - five boys and five girls. Laura was the youngest. As soon as school was out for the summer, Mr. Halpin would hire a dray from the livery barn in Lacombe and her mother and the kids would move out to the lake for the entire summer. Her dad would come out on weekends by horse and buggy.

Their cabin was built by Ed Newman of Lacombe, who built a number of cabins at the lake. It was originally a single room with open porches around it. These porches have been closed in at a later time. The inside walls are decorated, literally all over, with old photos and magazine pictures. There are also a number of shingle pictures. These shingle pictures were made by Laura's family and friends. They would get a poker hot in the fire then burn marks on the shingles, and then glue pictures on them. This was a form of entertainment on rainy nights.

In the early days, when the water was high, waves would wash right up on the front porch during bad storms. Laura's family had a canoe which they would keep in the trees in front of the cottage.

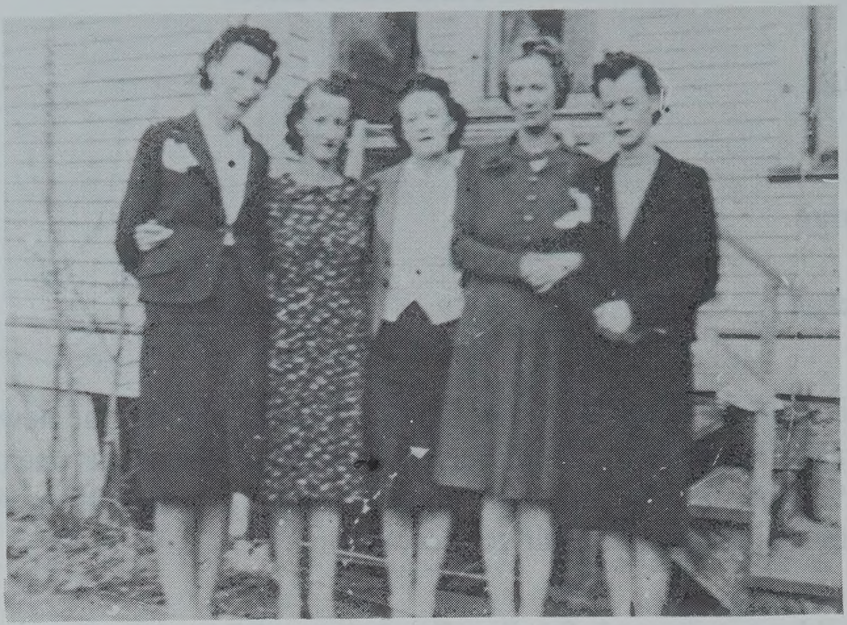
Laura remembers Leban Sandbrook who owned the Lake View Hotel. In his ad for the hotel he said, "picture one million seagulls basking in the sun." That was a true description of the lake then and it is still true.

Laura also remembers Lawrence Campbell of Lacombe saying that his father, A.M. Campbell, had records showing that Gull Lake was originally a hay field.

Laura has many memories of going to dances in the Thistle Inn. She liked to sleep in the bedroom on the porch so she could slip out and go to the dance.

Laura has no modern improvements in her cabin. She says if she can't carry water or use the outside toilet, she will stop coming to the lake.

Laura welcomes visitors to come and see her cabin during the Anniversary Weekend. You might even find your autograph, from long ago, written on one of the walls.



The five Halpin sisters - Gwen, Annie, Marion, Freddie and Laura

The five Halpin brothers - Earl, Jack, Barney, Harry and Claude.

"CARRY ON"
#104 Oliver Avenue

By Betty Habkirk Nesselbeck

My grandfather, Charles B. Halpin, and his wife Catherine, began to take their family of ten to Gull Lake in 1909. They spent thirteen years in "Brown Betty", and in 1922 built a new cabin - "Carry On" - which years later my family referred to as the "Big House." My mom related stories of family members winning medals in the Wrigley Regattas, and great dances at the Thistle Inn where Uncle Jack played in the band.

1940 - Freddie Halpin Habkirk, Charles Halpin, Betty and Marion Habkirk, at Gull Lake.

Since the late 1920's, my mother and dad, Freddie Halpin and Gordon Habkirk, spent yearly family vacations at the cabin, often with many aunts, uncles, and other grandchildren. There always seemed to be room for one more, and at mealtime, unexpected visitors were always welcome. It was a wonderful privilege to belong to the extended Halpin family.

My early recollections include family bonfires, (the biggest ever imagined!) Ott's store (the daily trek for a treat), a great bakery at Fernies, riding the route with the milkman and his horse, jig-saw puzzles, pictures made of poker-burnt shingles, homemade ice cream, and the smell of fresh saskatoon pie.

My husband and I bought a cottage and continued the tradition of summers at Gull Lake. Aunt Gwen lived at the Lake "Centre" - the dump! On a good weekend you could get a stove or a chesterfield if you watched the traffic go by. Uncle Jack retired at the Lake and enjoyed a seat on council for years, as did my grandfather and my husband. Aunts Laura and Gwen, Mom and I had many wonderful adventures at the auction sales in the district.

Laura Halpin continues to enjoy the lake yearly, and some of the great grandchildren are starting to head that way each summer. The 80 year tradition continues.

Ott: *"Did you know that the leopard can change its spots.?"*

No.

"It can move from one spot to another."

OUR HAPPY YEARS AT GULL LAKE
# 78 Oliver Avenue

By Earl E. Roberts

Our association with Gull Lake goes back over forty years. My wife and son spent a week's holiday there with friends in the mid-forties while I was still in the Navy. They rented McWilliams cottage, "Lincludin", at the north end of the east side (north of the border of the Village). At that time there were very few cottages on the east side of Oliver Street, but the waterfront side was all taken up with cottages. Ott's store was the place to go for groceries, ice and firewood. Ott might deliver the firewood late at night. "Lincludin" had no power but did have an ice box. It also had a left over from earlier times, a cooler box dug into the ground, a good place to keep vegetables.

Sucker Creek was just to the north of the cottage and was almost dry in those times, but the McWilliams told us that in the late Twenties and early Thirties, the lake was much higher, and some of the young folks learned to swim at the mouth of Sucker Creek. This particular area of Gull Lake was a summer haven for the staff from the Provincial Mental Hospital at Ponoka. Robert McWilliams, Tom Watt and Tom Chandler had the three lots in a row. They were all old country folk who had come to Ponoka to work at the hospital and raise their families in cottages on the hospital grounds. In later years, the Dr. John Byers family acquired the Watt cottage, thus preserving the Ponoka ownership.

During the late Forties and early Fifties, we spent several summer holidays at "Lincludin". One time we took my parents from Elnora with us, and on another occasion we invited my wife's brother, Lester and his young family to spend a week with us there. In 1948 we bought our first car, a 1939 Ford sedan. For the first time since our marriage in 1939 we had wheels and could drive to Gull Lake for a weekend or a Sunday picnic.

In the summer of 1951 I was persuaded by Bill Savage, an Irish Scout Leader, who worked at the hospital, to help him with a Boy Scout camp at Gull Lake. The campsite was on the property of Albert Ebeling before Aspen Beach Provincial Park area was developed. A few years later a Lacombe service club built a camp kitchen right on the spot where we had our cook and supply tent.

To get to the area we followed a little used trail through Ebeling's property and past Rev. Brundage's log cabin and on into the wilderness. I took my son, Marv, with me. He was a nine year old Cub but adapted fairly well to Scout camp and he attended many such camps later in life, staying in Scouts and Rovers until he was eighteen. For the Scout camp we scrounged an old cook stove from the Gull Lake dump which at that time was across the road from "Lincludin" on the east side of Oliver Street.

Grampa Ebeling and Albert sometimes attended our evening campfires, and Grampa Ebeling told stories about early Gull Lake. He told about the steamboat that was used to boom logs from the west side to the sawmill on the east side, located somewhat north of the present Sailing Club. I later had a neighbour at the hospital, George Dobbs, who had been employed in the early years at the sawmill. He could point out where the mill was located and where the steam engine sat, etc. The steam boat was later used to tour residents and visitors around the lake.

There were still parts of the old Government Pier in evidence in 1951.

Our family association with Gull Lake began in those early years when we camped and picnicked, but it really developed in earnest in the fall of 1971 when we bought the cottage, "El Rancho", from Herb Harriman. That same summer, my uncle, Ken Jardine, had bought the cottage to the south of Herb's and it was while visiting Uncle Ken that we became interested. We moved furniture back and forth that fall, and during the spring, summer and fall of 1972 we were busy. For my birthday in July, Edna gave me a Franklin stove. This was a treasured addition that we enjoyed, especially in the early spring and late fall. That year we also built a wrap-around deck on the east side which enhanced our fair-weather living area for entertaining. We often asked folks for Sunday brunch which we prepared on the wood-burning stove outside and served on the deck. Later we added water from Herb's system, and to have hot water on tap was real progress in a lake cottage!

A year or two later we attempted to dig a well. It was dug with a nine inch post hole auger and extensions. This adventure was a labour of love but it did give us some complications. We had a quick-sand cave-in at the ten foot level, and were unable to penetrate into the blue clay below. We had four or five feet of water and it served our domestic needs. We installed a small pressure system which worked well, and we could water the front lawn a little when dry weather came. We had an outside visable float indicator and were careful to not draw the water down and cause a pump failure.

In 1973 we decided to repaint the cottage. It looked impressive with a coat of bright yellow paint.

Much local activity was evident in the following years. Earlier, Herb and Muriel had renovated their cottage to make a home with all services including a well. The Fargeys came as honeymooners to build and work long hours on their new house.

Across the street Bill and Sheila Norris bought the longstanding "Red Gull", gave it a face lift and a new name, the "Chief's Retreat." Across from us a dull green cottage stood empty and unused for those first years. The lot was purchased by Syd Sutherland and he began clearing the lot of everything but the old stone fireplace. The Sutherlands spent two summers clearing and building and landscaping this property. For the first time, we could actually see the lake from our windows. Syd left an open spot in the landscaping so that we could have the privilege of seeing the lake.

Up and down the street there seemed to be constant activity. Old cottages were razed and replaced by new ones, old ones were renovated and up-dated. This was the place to be with coming and going and making changes.

While wandering on the upper beach area one day, we came across an anchor stone with 1912 on it. It was in front of Brown's so we asked Mr. Brown the significance of this artifact. He said that it was used by their family. The lake was obviously much larger in those times and the water would have been up to the present property line.

Herb is a tree lover and he encouraged us to plant more trees, even supplying cuttings from his Northwest poplars and willows. We also imported some tamaracks from Morningside but they lasted only a few years, and we ended up with healthy poplars, willows and some local spruce. We worked many hours on the back lawn. We were wiped out a couple of times in the early years by high water that lingered for weeks but after the Village bulldozed the ditch behind the properties and made an outlet to the lake to carry the run-off, we had little trouble. The lawn grew well and well and it never needed watering because of the subirrigation.

We made other minor changes. We built two stone cairns in front, giving our cottage an identity and making us easier to find. We fashioned brick planters across the front for flowers. Earlier, we had made sunshades for the windows. We toyed with idea of making a sun deck on the east side roof but this idea never came to fruitation, but we did have an enjoyable time planning and drafting how we would do it. We had a hammock in the trees for relaxing. On the back lawn we played football, softball, croquet and horseshoes. There was the much used fire pit for toasting and roasting and a place to visit around a bonfire.

All of this was quite worthwhile as long as we could share it with our families. When Marv and Joan, and Barry and Gail moved to Vancouver, Edna and I were left to enjoy it alone. The kids developed other interests and came less often to the cottage. In the spring of 1982, we listed the cottage and in June we turned it over to Laura Lee and Wayne Hrobak from Didsbury. It has been pleasant for us to see them using and keeping it up just like we hoped they would. Gull Lake was a good place during our years there, and we formed some lasting friendships. We tried to live by the adage, "The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have." Our eleven years at "El Rancho" were good ones.

1982 - Earl Roberts cooking Sunday brunch.

1982 - Edna Roberts with spruce tree that was three feet high in 1972.

"THE HARRIMAN STORY"
#76 Oliver Avenue

By Herb Harriman

My family came to the Lacombe - Gull Lake area in 1936, and started a farm supply business which we operated for forty years. After a busy day around the shop, we would drive out to the Lake to spend a few hours before dark. Sometimes we would fish at Brewer's Beach and catch some nice pike. After living on the prairies all our lives, this parkland area seemed like a paradise. Gull Lake was so clean and the countryside so picturesque, almost beyond description. A highlight of the evening would be a stop at Mr. Gunn's candy shop. He sold a wide variety of very good homemade candy. His Boston cream fudge was outstanding. At this time there was Ott's store, Tom Lorimer's store and post office, and Broadway store. You could buy almost anything you needed between the three stores.

After the war, my wife, Muriel, and I enjoyed picnics at Gull Lake. By 1956 we had three children, Beth, Larry and Raymond. Because of the children, we doubled our efforts to obtain property on which to build a cottage. Mr. Tom Jackson, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Village, told us there was no property for sale, but referred us to Mr. Harold Hopkins of the Municipal District of Lacombe. They had a few lots for sale over and beyond Meridian Camp, but there was no power available. Mr. Hopkins was very helpful and got out some old maps while saying that the Village of Gull Lake must have some property for sale. He asked about the old Fernie subdivision, which I wasn't aware of. Apparently, Mr. Fernie had purchased the land from John Hug Sr. after World War 1, and due to his ill health, he was unable to develop it to his expectations. Ultimately, the land had reverted to the Village under Taxation Laws. Mr. Jackson then engaged a lawyer to search the title and get it cleared for the Village to sell this property. The lots were put up for sale on a Monday and were all sold by that Thursday.

Muriel and I purchased two lots, and so did my brother Ray and Bruce Woodrow. We later worked as a team to build our cottages. As it was mid-summer of 1956, we only built two cottages that summer and cleared the sites for the other buildings. We built three cottages in 1957 and three more in 1958. There was one incident that I must mention. We had purchased the last lot on the east side of Oliver Avenue and were told to see Mr. Walter Butlin as to the location of the survey pegs. He showed me the pegs on the lakeside of the road. We then set up a transit and located the building site on the other side of the road. The cottage "North Cove" was then built. Two years later we found out that the lakeside of the Village was 150' longer than the east side as at an earlier date, the Village had acquired three 50' lots from the County. Our cottage had been built on property belonging to Mr. John Hug, Sr. I went to see Mr. Hug and we arrived at a fair and just deal. We purchased a 150' lot and had it surveyed, making it into three lots. Later we had it annexed into the Village.

We had a very interesting time at Gull Lake raising our children and being with our friends. We rented our extra cottages for a number of years while living at "El Rancho", which was our summer home. As the children were grown, we helped maintain the yards. After the children were grown, we sold the cottages, one at a time, keeping one to live in.

Many changes have taken place over the years, all for the good. Our children and their families all have a special affection for life at Gull Lake and return whenever they can. Our life at Gull Lake has been very rewarding. In 1973 we took up permanent residence at the Lake. In 1975, I sold the business and retired here.

One day Raymond, Don Pollock, our son-in-law, Roy Voice and others, were helping to sheet the roof of the cottage we are now living in. Everyone was pounding nails when Muriel called us for dinner. I said that I'd be right down, but when I went to go, I found that the boys had nailed my pant leg to the roof. I still didn't miss dinner!

1986 - Muriel and Herb Harriman on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Ott: " *Never eat too much because you won't be able to close your eyes.*"

Why not?

"*You won't have enough skin, it will be all around your stomach.*"

"KEN VER KOTTAGE"

#74 Oliver Avenue

By Verna Jardine

Until 1969, Gull Lake was a wonderful place to take our children for an outing at the beach, enjoy a picnic basket and return to Lacombe where my husband and I operated a watch repair and gift shop. We had learned there were many Christian camps around the lake, operated and founded by groups we were familiar with. MacLaurin Beach, founded by a Baptist minister, a Canadian Sunday School Mission Camp (now Camp Silversides), a Christian Reformed group, and others were still active.

In 1969, after our children were grown, we sold our business and home, and found ourselves as retired grandparents not knowing exactly where we wished to spend our summers.

A mobile home in Phoenix, Arizona, was an easy decision for winters, as one of our two daughters had settled there. The other lived in Edmonton.

1981 - Verna and Ken Jardine at a party at the old hall.

While trying to decide what to do, we bought a very small cottage in which to store our belongings. Herb Harriman, a Lacombe business man, had a number of these cottages in a row up Oliver Avenue. Ours was "Mosey Inn" which we changed to "Ken Ver Kottage", a combination of our names Ken and Verna. Gradually, during the summers, we added rooms, insulated, stuccoed etc. until we had a comfortable summer home.

Thus, winters in Arizona and summers at Gull Lake became our pattern until in 1982, when we decided we should be closer to our daughter because of health reasons, we moved to Edmonton. The cottage was listed but did not sell.

Since my husband's passing in 1985, my daughter, Bernice and her husband, Wes Johnson, have maintained the cottage with some help from their families and added improvements as needed. The cottage has been enjoyed and well used since that time by friends, grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

I have always known that Gull Lake had the finest beaches, the finest of families, and some of the finest friends in the Province and I hope that it will always continue to be so.

Watching a group heading for the beach Ott exclaimed,

"No wonder the waves are wild."

TWO MOVING STORIES
#64 and #66 Oliver Avenue

By Jack Roberts and Rose and Arnold Lorenz

The cottage known as "Dinny's Den" located at #64 Oliver Avenue, has a unique history.

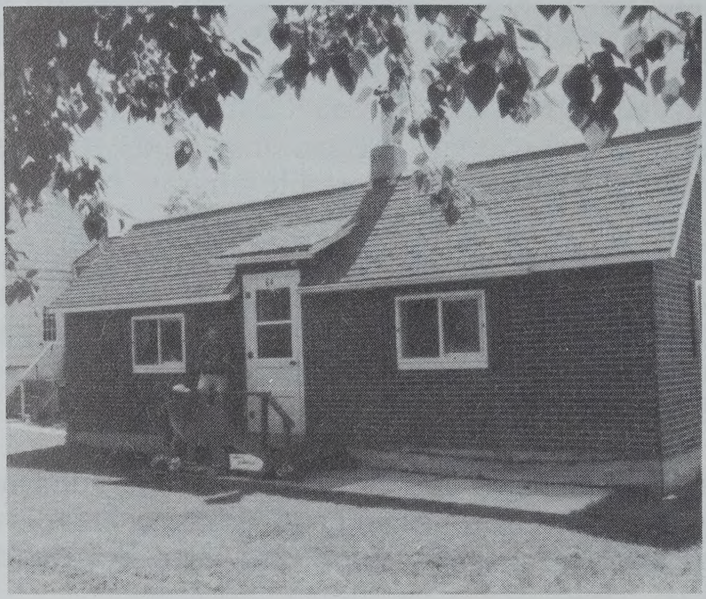
The building was originally located at the Star Mine at Rosedale, Alberta. It was used as a storage facility for the miners' supplies when that mine was active.

In 1958, the building was acquired by Mr. Norman Russell and the late Otto Flegal of the Drumheller area and moved to its' present site at Gull Lake.

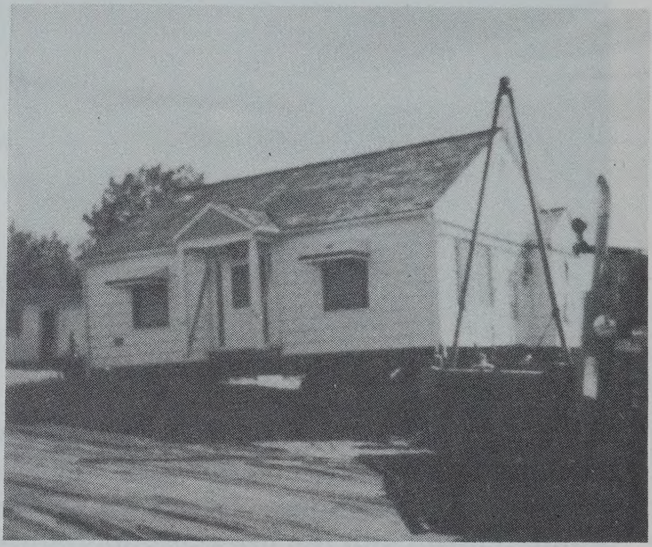
This cottage is owned by Margaret Russell of Drumheller and Ruth Dowswell of Calgary.

Rose and Arnold bought "Mom's Mink", located at #66 Oliver Avenue, from Fred Miller in 1978. This cottage was originally owned by Ruth Dowswell of Calgary and Margaret Russell of Drumheller. It too, had been an old mine cabin that had been moved from Drumheller.

The Lorenzes tore down the old cabin and moved in a house from Red Deer in September, 1981. This house had been built in the 1950's and makes a very good cabin.



Mr. Blake Dowsell of Calgary in front of "Dinny's Den".



1981 - The Lorenzs' "new" cabin arrives.

Ott: "*Always take a bar of soap with you when you go swimming in case you fall out of the boat.*"

Why?

Ott: "*You can wash yourself to shore.*"

"HOOP N HOLLER"
# 60 Oliver Avenue

By Jack Roberts

"Hoop N Holler" was apparently built in or around 1947. We understand that Lot 18, Block 2 was originally purchased by an ex- serviceman and on it, he built the cottage and second one named "Ardath."

This property was later used as a down payment on a D-8 caterpillar tractor from Stan Reynolds of Wetaskiwin and was reclaimed by that firm for payment default. The cottage "Hoop N Holler" was purchased from Stan Reynolds by the Roberts family in the spring of 1965. By this time, Lot 18 had been sub-divided. The NW 1/2 of Lot 18 became available seperately with the cottage "Ardath" and was sold to a Calgary couple around 1966.

Approximately 1967 "Ardath" burned to the ground and with the intensity of the fire, it was assumed that "Hoop N Holler" would also be lost. The teenagers attending a dance at the Village Hall plus many men and women from the Village immediately set up the bucket brigade to save "Hoop N Holler". Since it was the first calm night in a week, they were successful. The Dave Jones family were kind enough to offer their facilities to put up our family in a terrifying moment.

The cottage is a unique building. The foundation and and fireplace were built of field stone, the foundation being about two feet thick. The fireplace includes this inscription "A Ryght Happee and Joyouse Playse" which is not yet identified as to its source. The main frame of the cottage is built from fir logs erected vertically. These logs were apparently cut in the Rocky Mountain House area, hauled to this site, peeled and cut to size.

The tools and evidence of the type of construction were found under the cottage and included three buck saws and a tool for hand mortising the logs. Every part of the original cottage was hand made including the bedroom closets, kitchen cupboards and furniture. The living area furniture included a coal and wood stove, a picnic type table and two single and a double lawn-type chair.

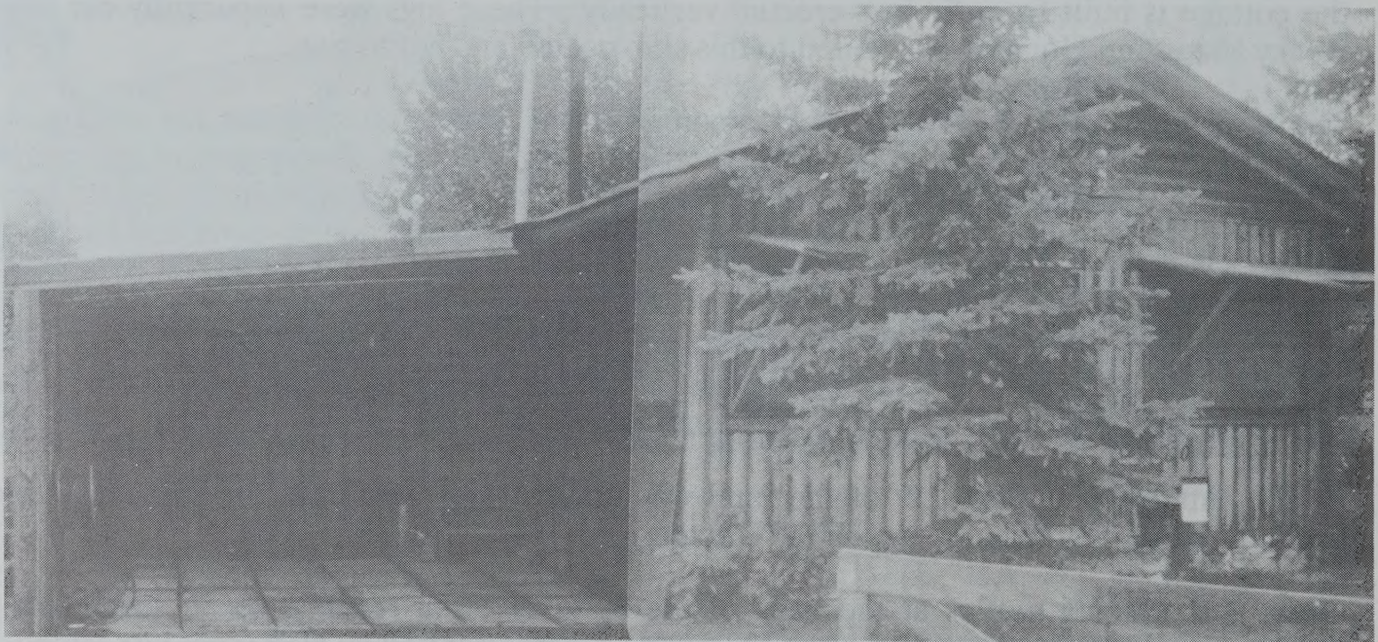
There was a sink installed in the kitchen counter and another wash or bathroom type sink in the corner. All were tied together plumbing-wise with an electrically heated hot water tank but not to the water source which was a sand-point well.

At the time of purchase, 2/3 of the land was under water including the log constructed backhouse building made to match the cottage.

Grass and stinging nettles at the back of the building often reached six to seven feet in height. This land was reclaimed after 200 yards of loam supplied by H. Kamps was added to raise land above the water level and then seeded with grass. The land on the NW 1/2 of 18 was finally sold to the Roberts family and it too was landscaped in a fashion that no one at either end of the village would be ashamed of. All trees planted were acquired from various road right-of-ways around Gull Lake.

Our water well was drilled by Mr.Nelson, now of Blackfalds, and and on the recommendations of Ott who owned the store now known as Holiday Store.

The Roberts' family (left to right) Jack Roberts, Violet Ainslie, Terry Roberts, Jason Berard, Diane Berard, Dale Berard, and Eleanor Roberts.



The Roberts' Cottage, "Hoop N Holler".

MEMORIES
#43 Oliver Avenue

By Helen McQueen Learmonth

In 1906 my oldest brother and sister came to Gull Lake to visit the Kinnaird family (Ken, Jessie "Jopps", Doug and Tom). Their enthusiasm about the lake convinced our parents to come down in 1907. They rented the Beatty cottage for the second month. In 1908 our own cottage was built - the lot was selected because of two very tall spruce trees - for years they were an easy landmark from far across the lake.

When we came to the lake, we had to take the train from Edmonton to Lacombe - it left at : 6.00 a.m. How my parents managed to have seven of us ready to leave that early I can't imagine, although I remember Mother saying she didn't have much sleep the night before. Some of the bedding had to be rolled in the tent, as the family would be at the lake most of the summer. There was also a huge round-topped trunk, and other heavy pieces of luggage. Father would have arranged with Mr. Fortune, who had a livery stable in Lacombe, to meet us. There was a large dray for the heavy things, and the boys and the dog travelled with that. Mother and we four girls rode in a democrat.

Our cottage was built by Alec Elder, a wonderful carpenter - we were all very fond of him. He was the janitor at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton. He had come down some time ahead, and built himself a solid tent frame. He lived in this tent while he was building our cottage. I don't know how long that took. We always wondered how he got the framing up for the high roof.

My memories of 1908 are hazy as I was four years old. When we arrived at the lake, the doors and windows were not in place but the weather was fine. Mr. Elder had also made frames for beds and loose boards were fitted in to support mattresses. The mattresses were large sacking bags that were filled with fresh hay. They were lovely and high at the beginning of the season, but gradually flattened down toward the end of the season. The girls and my parents slept in the cottage, and the boys and their friends slept in the tents.

We always seemed to have visitors, as did most of the early campers. How the mothers coped with all the meals is a mystery. Of course, the older children helped a great deal. Porridge was standard for breakfast, and farmers supplied eggs and chickens. There were lots of fish. I think Mr. Wiese could obtain bacon and other meats. Behind the back road there were plenty of strawberries - there were no cottages there in early times. Of course, there were other berries in season. Near Sucker Creek, where the old Mobley farm was, there were lots of mushrooms. The supply of canned goods was very limited. We had canned tomatoes, large tins of jam and corn syrup for johnny cake or pancakes. Bread, buns and cakes were made on the small wood stoves, although it wasn't too long before they were available in stores or from people calling at the door. (We all remember the wonderful baking at Mary Meredith's, when she took over the old Fernie place). There was a good supply of vegetables fairly soon from farmers calling at the door and bakeries soon began delivering to the lake. In early days, Wieses had milk available, and later on John Hug and his family delivered excellent milk and cream.

At first, Wieses had the only well for drinking water. The boys used to take pails up in the boat to bring back our supply. Wieses had a windmill which was a source of great interest to children. They also had peacocks which were very exotic to our young eyes, with their beautiful colours and harsh voices. Later, I read that farmers found them useful to keep away hawks and other dangers to chickens.

The lake water was so clear and clean it could be used for everything but drinking. The beach was very narrow. It was clean white sand with no weeds on the Aspen Beach side. The lake bottom was covered with small hard ridges of sand that was pleasant to walk on. There were three successive sand bars before one reached deep water - perfect for children. Even when out in a boat, it was possible to see the bottom, although the water might be well over eight feet deep. Lots of cabins had rafts moored out far enough to be useful for swimming and diving. Nearly everyone had a canoe or a row boat. Many had piers to use when they didn't want to pull their boats up on shore. There were few motor boats in the early years. There were quite a lot of sailboats and some expert sailors. The sailboat races were attractive to watch, as they still are. Someone at the Emery cottage had a bugle, and one often heard "Come to the cook-house door, boys" - a message easily carried across the lake. Regattas were great events, with many types of competition, especially when the big Government Pier was still there. At night, many of the boats were decorated, some with Japanese lanterns and would go down the lake as far as Sucker Creek, then make the turn back.

Bathing suits were elaborate affairs in early years, at least for women, with puffed sleeves and overskirts. I have a faint memory of someone wearing bathing shoes and stockings. Bathing parties were frequent at the lake. We would gather for swimming at a friend's cabin, and then have a party, sometimes including homemade ice cream.

There were masquerade parties - sometimes just at one of the dances. One of the last I remember was in 1919, when many (alas not all) of the young men had come back from war. It was over in the Meridian Bay Clubhouse - a lovely place. We were all used to dressing up in costumes, for on rainy days we often played charades.

Gull Lake was a popular resort, and Edmonton and Calgary papers used to mention in their social columns names of visitors there, especially at the Lake View Hotel. The meals at the Hotel were excellent. There were dances at the Lake View Hotel, at the Thistle Inn and at Fernie's Hall. At one time there were dances Monday, Wednesday and Saturday - Saturday, of course, being the big night. Young people from towns around the lake were constant attendants. Attached to the hall by the Lake View Hotel was a screened in lean-to, known as the Chicken Coop. Those too young, or lacking the admission fee, could watch the dancing from there.

We had a lot of picnics - sometimes over to Walker's Point (beside Meridian Bay), or to Saratoga Point (beyond the McLaurin Camp). Both points used to be easily visible from our beach, as both had lots of large rocks - gone over the years for buildings or fireplaces. Part of the pier was still at the Old Mill and we could tie our boat to it. The old boiler was still there and it was a good place to pick raspberries. There were lots of garter snakes which seemed to enjoy the piles of old sawdust.

There were always bonfires at the lake. We would find lots of dead trees across the back road. It was very wet there in the early days and there were no cottages on that side of the road. There was no elaborate food at bonfires - usually popcorn, maybe marshmallows. Any interested passerby just joined in the fun. There was always singing - before the days of radio of course. Young ones might have to go to bed early, but music was very clear in the quiet evenings. I remember Stephen Foster songs, and old fashioned ones like Redwing, and popular ones like Moonlight Bay. There were a lot of excellent men's voices - but after the outbreak of World War I there was a great change and things were never the same. Occasionally there might be a violin or other instrument. Sometimes people in boats might be singing - sound carried clearly across the water. In the confusion of today, it is hard to remember the wonderful quiet of the lake. Traffic was very slim, and even motorboats in the early years were not noisy.

Several clergymen had cottages at the lake. In the early days, there was sometimes a joint Sunday service down by the Lake View Hotel.

In the days before ice delivery, campers would have large holes dug in a shady spot and fit a large box in it, or cribbing, and this made a cool place for keeping milk, meat and so on. A large firm lid was fitted on and the cooler worked quite well. I don't imagine supplies lasted very long, lake appetites being always so keen.

Since the lake was so close to the cottages, several people managed to have a pipe run from the lake up to a pump in the cottage kitchen, which saved a lot of carrying. Most cottages had a large tank outside to catch rainwater - a useful thing for washing day. When one looks at old snapshots it is easy to see what quantities of washing were done - and ironing had to be done with the old irons heated on the stove. This was long before the days of drip dry fabric.

There never seemed to be any trouble getting loads of wood. George Fernie supplied us, and also did many repairs and other necessities. We enjoyed having the telephone and Post Office at Fernie's which was so near. When we got an ice box, the Fernie boys supplied us with ice. I am not sure what years the various stores were opened, but we all enjoyed Dolly's and Ott's. Later the Post Office was moved to Dolly's and we would go for the mail and have a social visit and hear all the news. The day the pig train came along was always a source of interest to all at the lake.

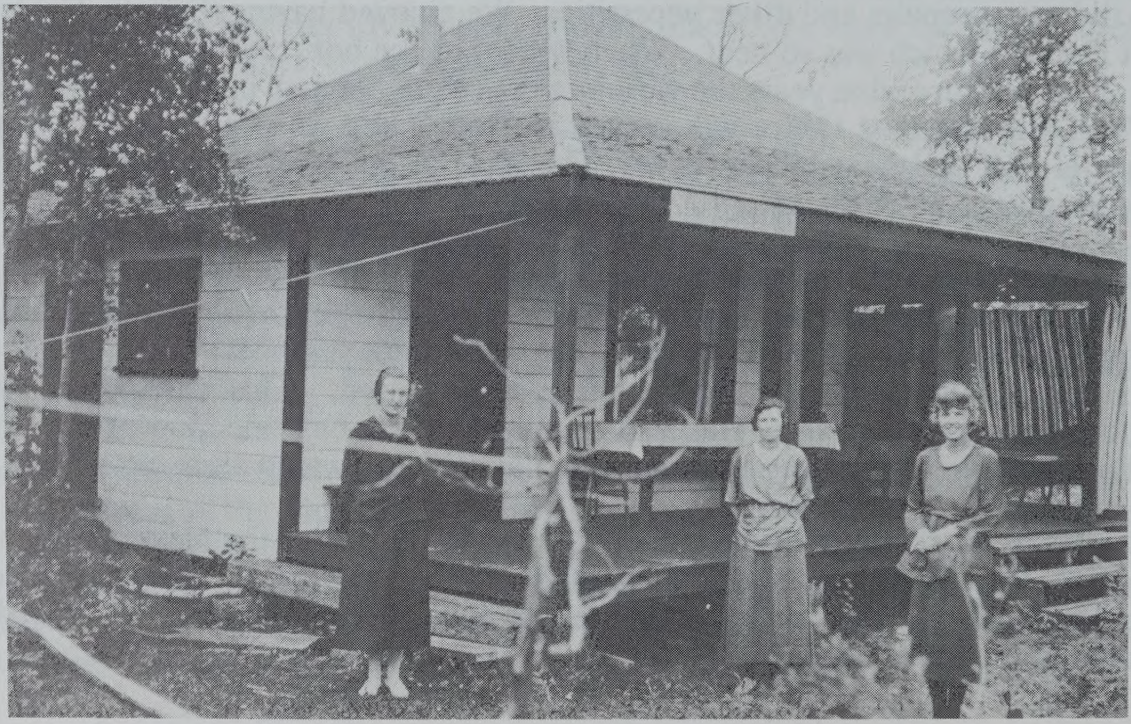
It is hard to remember the masses of wild flowers and shrubs which were around the lake. Even as we came down on the train, the ditches would be full of tiger lilies. There were black-eyed susans and many varieties of flowers we do not see now. We have remnants of bluebells now - but anemones seem to have disappeared. This dates from ill-advised spraying done several years ago. This also meant we do not hear meadowlarks, whose songs used to be a joy. There were varieties of small plants in the swamp area - also gone.

We all rejoice as we see the geese fly in, but are sad at the loss of the many birds which were so abundant. Rarely we hear the cry of a loon. I suppose we can't expect to have a large bird population when all the land around the lake is settled. Bird and small animal life was so abundant in the early days.

Occasionally, travelling evangelists would appear and set up large tents and hold several nights of meetings. No doubt they appealed to many, but the music was often overpowering, especially after the days of loudspeakers. One time Bob Horner and our nephew, Alec McKnight were watching the proceedings with curiosity, when a rather grim man came out to speak to them, and asked "Boys are you Christians?". Alec answered nervously "No - we're Presbyterians".

1914 - Tena, Mrs. McQueen, Annie Ferguson, Jean, Dr. McQueen and Helen.

1916 - Helen and Tena McQueen with Bobs, the dog.



1920 - Helen McQueen (right) and two sisters in front of the McQueen Cottage.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"
#38 Oliver Ave.

By Marjory Hutchison

Our residence which is a permanent home, was built by my husband, Tom, in 1954 and was originally constructed from two old school houses which he tore down, one being the old Spruceville School. Prior to this, I do not believe there was a dwelling on this lot as it was recovered by the Village on tax recovery in 1948 and purchased by Tom in 1954. There was no evidence of a previous building site. When we moved here there were no other cottages to the east on the south side for the entire length of the village except for Reg McVittie's home. In 1954 we had no street lights and no snow removal so we would shovel a path to Ott's Store to get the car on to the highway. Sometimes at Easter, cottagers at the east end would drive to our place then take our toboggan to haul their supplies to their cottages.

1984 - Marjory and Tom Hutchison with Marguerite Connell at Christmas party in the hall.

Ott: *"Did you hear about the fight in the coffee shop?"*

No.

"The coffee soaked the donut."

PERMANENT RESIDENTS
#1 Cyrene Close

By Lynne Kilpatrick

After spending some enjoyable weekends at Gull Lake in the late 1970's, visiting Ron's brother and his wife, Lyle and Dorothy, we decided to build a cottage. We were at the time living in Redcliffe, which is just out of Medicine Hat, while we were building. It proved to be a very wet year and two of the kids, Rhonda and Donald, spent much of their time bailing out the crawl space as it seemed to fill up during the week.

Ron stayed at the lake to complete the cottage, which had now turned into plans for a permanent residence. Rory was born November 3, 1981 and we moved up to the lake in February of 1982.

I was involved in the Community League before we moved up and later served as President. I am now serving as Secretary-Treasurer and have worked on the newsletter for a few years, which I enjoy.

Ron served on the Building Committee for the new Hall, and worked for the Village for a year.

We are now in the process of building a new home on Cyrene Crescent, next to our present home. We hope to finish in the new year, we have really come to think of the Lake as home, and our children and grandchildren love to come visit the year-round.

Ott: *"Did you hear what happened to the lady at the bakery?"*

No.

"She was electrocuted."

How?

Ott: *"By the currants!"*

MORRISON, HAY AND CARRUTHERS

By John Carruthers

The three Boyd sisters from Lacombe (Bertha, Lydia and Alma), their husbands and families all treasured the experiences Gull Lake had to offer over the past seventy-five years.

Bertha married Norman Morrison, an owner of the Morrison & Johnson Hardware in Lacombe and Bentley. They purchased the lot at #35 Oliver Avenue in 1910. The Morrisons selected the lot because it was beside a creek which provided a mooring for their boat. The family travelled to the Lake by horse and buggy, except for their son Donald. Donald would ride the family cow out to Gull Lake in order for the family to have fresh milk. If he arrived before suppertime he would be in trouble for running the cow and spoiling the milk. The Morrisons stabled their cow at Fernie's, as did their neighbours the Campbells, and each morning before heading to Lacombe, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Campbell sallied forth to get milk, then repeated the process on their return.

Another amenity the Morrisons enjoyed in the early 1900 was a pump in the kitchen which saved hundreds of trips of carrying pails of water from the village pump.

Norman Morrison served on the Gull Lake council in 1919, 1920 and 1923 to 1929. The cottage was later sold to the Bowlers.

Mrs. Joseph Hay bought the lot of #37 Lakeview Avenue in the early 1900's. The cottage was built by H. A. Hay of Lacombe and at that time, with over 1200 square feet, was one of the largest and most beautiful cottages at the Lake. The cottage was bought from Mrs. Hay's estate in 1924 by her daughter Alma and Alma's husband David, who owned the men's clothing store in Lacombe.

At the time that the Hay family first came to "Happy-Go-Lucky", the water was at the high level mark and one could sit on the porch and watch the children playing at the water's edge. By the time the Hay girls (Jessie, Kay, Pat and Barb) were in their teens, they could play tennis and softball on the beach.

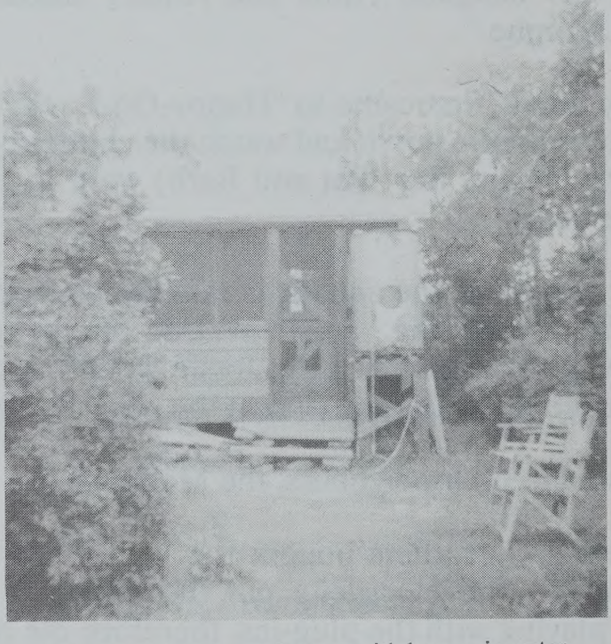
Mr. & Mrs. Hay actively served on the aquatic committee and both Kay and Jessie won the R. W. Ward Cup for Girls' swimming. Jessie Watson Short bought the cottage from her parents in 1949 and when her boys were little, Jessie would have to carry blankets, towels, etc. to the beach to supervise the children's play at the water's edge.

"Happy-Go-Lucky" was sold to their neighbors, the McCallas.

In 1907, Lydia and Norman Carruthers bought the lot at #37 Oliver Avenue beside the Fernie's store. The cottage had electricity put in earlier on but they were extremely concerned with children playing with the plug-ins, therefore the outlets were installed seven feet above the floor and a stool is required to utilize them.

As soon as report cards were delivered to the children at the end of June, all three families would move out to the Lake for the summer months. All the cousins (the Hay sisters, Jack and Margaret Morrison and Boyd, Helen, Ted and Tom Carruthers) remember meeting at the Government Pier where organized swimming and diving competitions often took place. As well, they remember the Wednesday and Friday night dances and the big community bonfires on the beach attended by young and old, earlier in the evening for the kids and later for the adults. Wood for the bonfires was collected from Sucker Ditch and towed back home behind canoes. At night, cottagers decorated their boats with Chinese lanterns and travelled up and down the Lake, often singing.

1930 - The four Hay girls, Kathleen (Kay), Pat, Jessie and Barbara



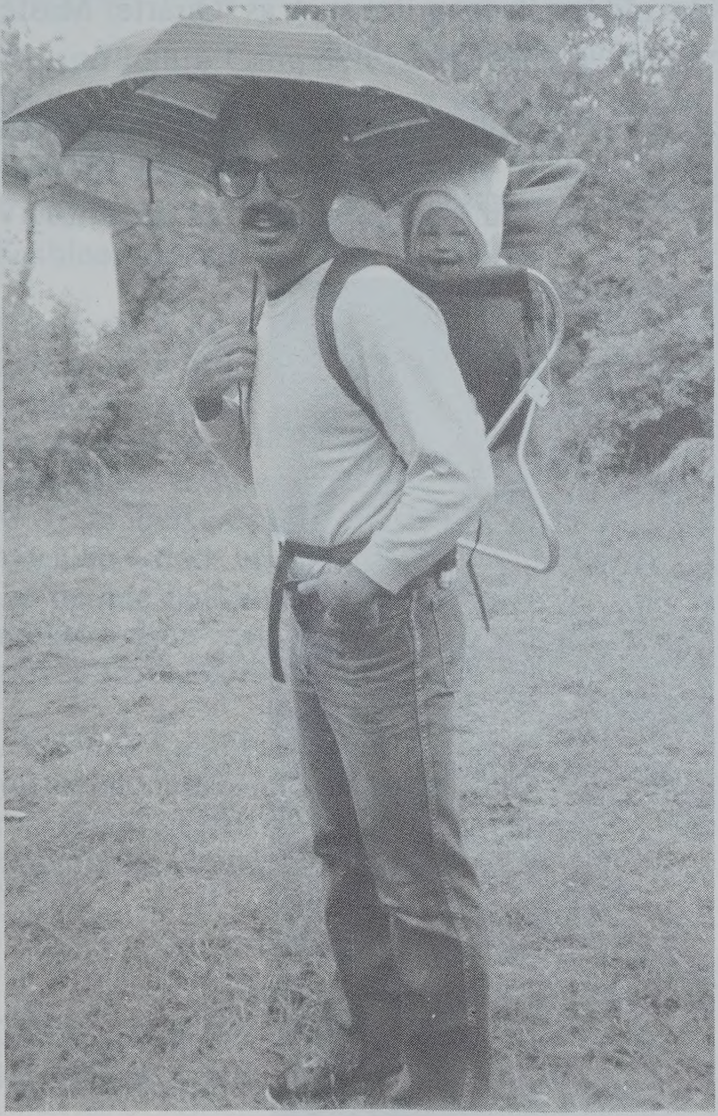
1961 - The Carruthers' Cottage with large rain-water barrel.

"CARRUTHERS BROTHERS'
#37 Oliver Avenue

By John Carruthers

The Carruthers' cottage went through a period of limited use and Lydia considered putting it up for sale. To keep the cottage in the family, Norman, aged twenty-five, and John, aged twenty, bought the cottage from their Grandmother in 1974.

My earliest memories are of our family of seven, plus our Labrador dog, Red, cramming into our car and travelling to the Lake from Calgary. As soon as we arrived, we climbed the fir tree out front to survey the Lake from the fort which was twenty- four feet above ground. Many a day was then spent on scavenger hunts, playing baseball on the beach, swimming and catching fireflies at night before the start of the bonfire when we would sing. The rainy days were passing having meals on the covered porch, popping popcorn in the fire, and playing card games to the sound of rain drops on the wooden shingles.



1987 - John Carruthers with daughter, Morgan.

A distinctive feature of the Carruthers cottage, now named "Carruthers Bothers", was the large rain barrel out front, later decorated with a clown's face by one of the more artistic grandchildren.

We didn't drink the rain barrel water and drinking water was obtained from the village pump. The closet village pump had too much iron, therefore we dutifully heeded our unique and totally needless, but enforced, rule not to set either pail on the ground before reaching home. You would arrive at the cottage feeling your arms had the length but, unfortunately, not the strength, of a gorilla.

In our teens, we golfed at the local courses and went to Sylvan to roller skate or attend the dances on the long weekends. We played football on the beach or in foot deep water, occasionally being tackled by the feeling of putting all one's weight on one of the few hidden rocks. After a day on the beach, we would have the "World Open Croquet Championships" back at the cottage.

The early adult days were rowdy, especially when the team stopped off at the Lake to and from our rugby games in Edmonton. During those days, a fridge was only useful for holding beer and even then it wasn't big enough. You could count on friends being at the Bentley bar on Saturday night so we frequently paid our respects there before coming home and having a bonfire and the occassional skinny dip. Then we would play the old 78 records and sing to songs like "Slow Poke" and "Dance Me Loose" by Arthur Godfrey.

Now with our own children, we arrive at the Lake for a weekend with enough food for a month. The cottage itself hasn't changed much except that we have running water, but no bathroom, and all the names of the bedrooms have changed from my Grandma's and my aunts and uncles to ours and our kids. We still play volleyball on the beach, but now also windsurf, play family card games and have bonfires at night. The songs have changed from the dirty ditties the rugby team sang back to the old family favorites such as "Quarter Master Store" and "Ezekiel Saw a Wheel a Rolling" - the songs we sang as kids.

We still take long walks along the road and beach after summer or occasionally substitute a bike ride utilizing the baby seats. Each year we compare our children's height on the door jamb to those of their parents and grandparents whose marks go back to 1924.

1987 - Morgan and Teresa Carruthers

MY GRANDFATHER, A. M. CAMPBELL

Gull Lake Reeve (Mayor) 1921 - 1932

By Sandy Campbell

A. M. Campbell came to Lacombe from Ontario about 1904-05.

His main occupation was a merchant. He built the Campbell Block in Lacombe where he operated a general store for years. He also owned the Lacombe Furniture Store. This was located where Vinet's Grocery Store is now.

He also owned three farms near Lacombe.

He and Laura Campbell raised three children in Lacombe, Jean, Lawrence and Kathleen. Jean Halton was the oldest and now resides in London, England. Jean's children are Kathleen Tynon and David Halton. Lawrence Campbell lived in Lacombe where he farmed. His children are Sandy Campbell, Lacombe, Sue Langlois and Bob Campbell of Victoria, B. C. Kathleen Schmidt was the youngest child and lived in Rochester, Minn. Kathleen had three children, all living in the U.S.

I believe A.M. Campbell built his two cottages at Gull Lake soon after he arrived in Lacombe, a little cottage at #25 Oliver Avenue and the big cottage at #27 Oliver Avenue. Each summer, he would move the family to the Lake for the months of July and August. In the early days, when the road to Gull Lake was little more than a trail, he would hire a dray with horses to move many of the family possessions to the lake. This included the piano. A. M. Campbell was known as Sandy Campbell. He and Laura had company and entertained most weekends at the lake. In those days, the lake was right up to the cottages and most of the people had boathouses in front of their cottages. Neighbours were the Burris, Jackson and Morrison families of Lacombe. Sandy Campbell passed away in 1942. Laura Campbell moved to Vancouver.

Lawrence Campbell took over the cottage and continued the tradition of moving his family to the lake each summer. Lawrence was Mayor for a number of years and was always very concerned about the reclining water of the lake. He was one of a group of residents who lobbied the Government to have the Blindman River directed into the lake.

GULL LAKE MEMORIES

#27 Oliver Avenue

By Sue Campbell Langlois

When asked to jot down memories of Gull Lake in the Campbell cottage, I immediately think of saskatoons, choke-cherries, aspens blowing backward in the wind, huge green spruce trees against the blue sky, bonfires, the smell of horse manure, and swimming in white caps. I can remember how exciting it was to ride on the garbage wagon with Mr. McVitty, or to help Ernie Fernie get ice out of his ice house.

1944 - Sue Campbell playing in the lake.

To this day, I know that water out of a dipper at Gull Lake is the world's best. (Perrier and Nanton are second rate). I remember the horror at any suggestion of indoor plumbing or running water. Who would want an indoor toilet without ivy growing at the door, or bathing in confinement rather than the lake? Would you not wash you hair under the rain barrel water by choice? As children, we loved going outside to brush our teeth and spit as far as possible into the bushes.

The Campbells went so far as to accept electricity into the cottage. This, in itself, was a large sacrifice for me, then about 10 years old. No more "coil oil" lamps or ice blocks which could be chipped off with an ice pick manned by big brother Sandy. An electric toaster replaced the rack over the woodstove fire that made the world's best toast.

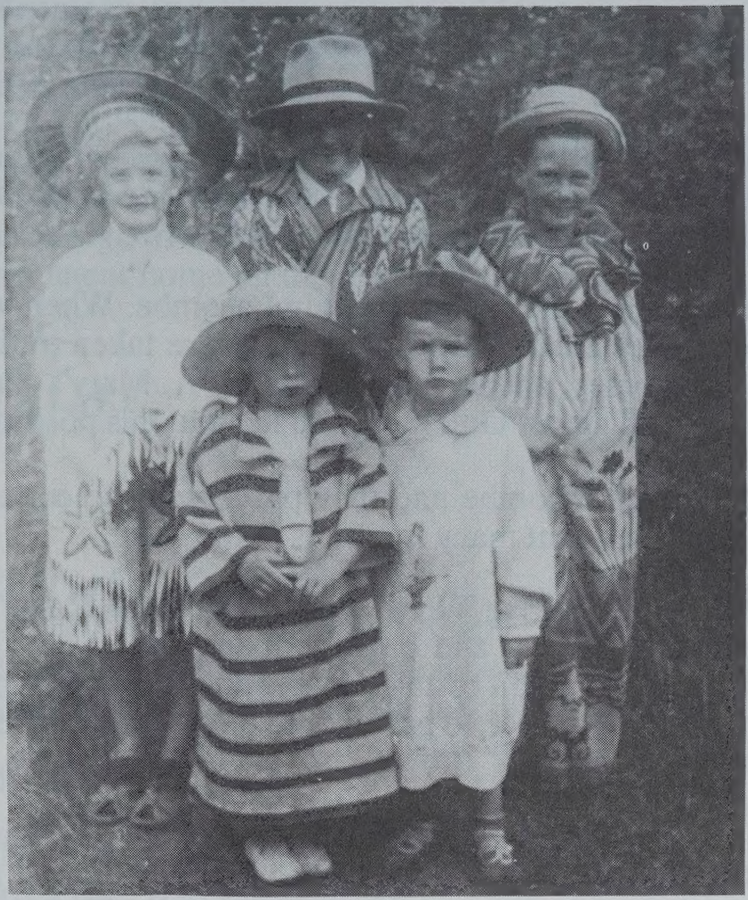
I never seemed bothered by the inconveniences at the lake. I carried 17 pails of water a day to satisfy Nola, my horse, and this gave me an extra appetite for Mary's wonderful cinnamon buns at Mary's Bakery across the street. Rainy days gave us the opportunity to play hours of "cheat" with the 1000's of incomplete decks of cards accumulated over the years by the Campbells. (Obviously rejects from rubbers of bridge hosted by Gramma Laurie). Housework was shared by all the cousins, brothers and friends. Standards were reasonable - sand on clothes, floors and blankets were acceptable.

My best Gull Lake memory is that Pop was there most of the time. He taught love of the sunset over the lake and the harvest moon on a walk down the back lane. We shared the excitement of trips to Brewer's beach for ice cream cones and yearly trip to Sylvan Lake for dinner.

There were two major social events at our section of the beach. Our neighbor, Fran Burris, had an annual Pink Tea Party for the ladies, and the Campbell kids had a summer carnival starring Sandy and Susan Campbell, Kathleen and David Halton and Jack Robinson plus numerous extras. We had trapeze artists, fortune tellers, clowns, and lemonade sellers. The big kids wore wonderful costumes. David and I were never big enough for the good costumes, so we always had to wear Dad's old shirts which came down to our ankles.

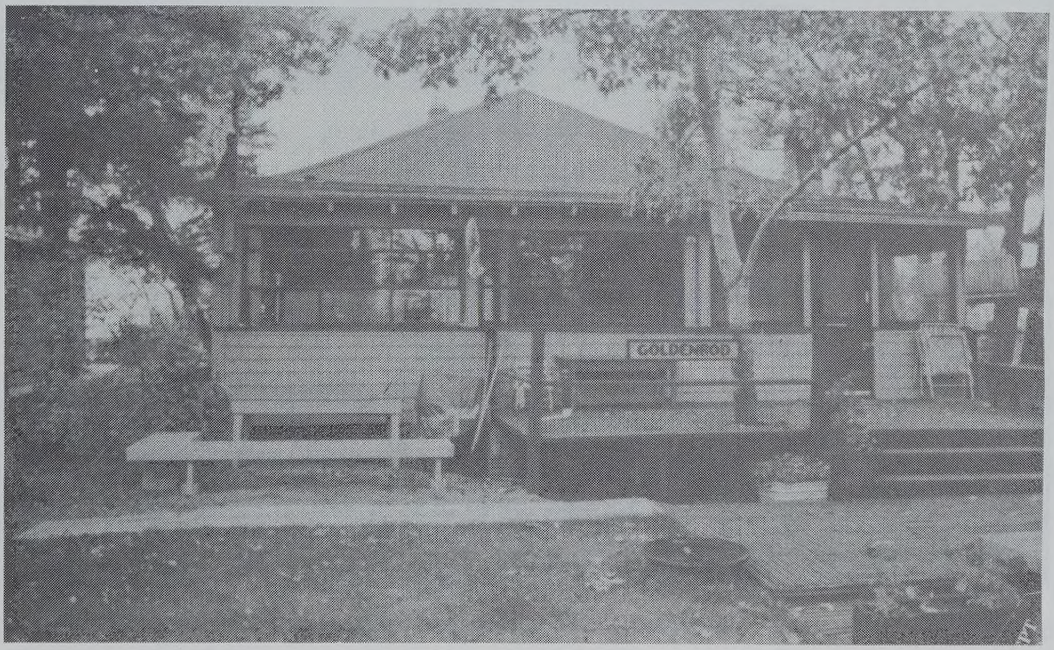
My best Gull Lake friend was Marjorie, who was older and from the city. We spent many hours surfboarding behind their motorboat or going to the Red Deer Drive-In Theatre in her parents' 1948 Mercury.

We no longer have our cottage at Gull Lake, but I will have my memories forever.



1943 - Kathleen Halton, Jack Robinson, Sandy Campbell, Sue Campbell, and David Halton dressed for a carnival.

(Note: In 1973 the Campbell cottage was sold to Jerry and Sharon Williamson of Red Deer. They named the cottage "Goldenrod").



"Goldenrod"

RECOLLECTIONS
# 23 Oliver Avenue

From Notes by Mary Jackson (Stuart) Berkeley

The Jackson cottage was built before 1916 for Frank Burke of Edmonton. The builder was Mr. MacNoughton, who was Tom Hutchison's grandfather.

Mary's father, Tom Jackson, was the C.P.R. agent in Lacombe. When his family first went to the Lake, they went by Model T car. Their belongings were taken to the lake by Fred Rush who owned a team of horses and a dray. In 1947, Mary's father was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Village of Gull Lake and he held this position for many years.

Mary married Dunc Stuart of Lacombe and they purchased the cottage from her mother. Mary, Dunc and their children spent many summers at the Lake.

She remembers the excitement during World War II when the R.A.F. training pilots from Penhold would fly in over the water and buzz the beach at 50 to 100 feet. She recalls a chimney fire in A.M. Campbell's small cottage on a windy and stormy night. The neighbours formed a bucket brigade and were able to put the fire out before it spread to their cottage or Campbell's big cottage.

During World War II Jean, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Campbell of Lacombe, married Mathew Halton, the noted World War II correspondent and author of "Ten Years to Alemain." Jean and Mathew had two children, a daughter, Kathleen, and a son, David, who is now a T.V. news correspondent for the C.B.C. One summer Jean came from Britain

1981 -" Mar-C-Conn" Cottage prior to demolition to visit and brought Kathleen and David with her. Mary recalls how David loved playing Cowboys and Indians and that he bought bubblegum to take home to his friends in England which in those days was a novelty.

Mary's husband suffered a heart attack and passed away at the lake. Mary later moved from Lacombe to Vancouver where she met and married Dr. Jim Berkeley. In 1964, she sold her cottage to Gordon and Marguerite Connell. In 1981, the Connells tore down the old cabin and built their new permanent home on the property.

MEMORIES OF GULL LAKE
# 23 Oliver Avenue

By Gordon Connell

I first vacationed at Gull Lake in the mid 1920's with my parents, brothers and sisters. We rented the cottage Forty Winks from Len Beatty who worked with my father at Marshall-Wells in Edmonton. Travel was by train and car when the roads were good. One year following heavy rains the road between the lake and Lacombe was impassable, so we hired Mr. Fernie to take us by horse and wagon to Lacombe, then took the train to Edmonton where Dad met us.

Len Beatty and his wife were in the cottage next door and the Gilmour's in the next cottage to the southwest. I played with Barr Gilmour.

A group of men and boys played volleyball. There were nine ministers in the group, including one from Ponoka who was always clowning around, this may have been Rev. Powell.

We enjoyed bonfires in the evenings with our neighbours, including the Halpens, when we roasted wieners and marshmallows.

Carmen Johnson was at the lake with his parents. They had a sponson canoe which they could equip with a sail.

Milk was delivered by the Hugs and was also available at Fernie's store where we could pick up our mail and buy groceries and wood. I was fascinated by the machine which was used to chop wood at Fernie's. It was similar in shape to horse's head driven by a long belt attached to a gasoline engine. I vividly recall seeing a Coleman lamp at Fernie's Store as it was several times brighter than the coal oil lamps and candles at Forty Winks.

The weather was usually quite cool during August. One day my older brother and I wanted to go swimming. After considerable begging, Mother reluctantly allowed us to go provided we wrap ourselves in towels when we came out of the water and run to the cottage so we could dry ourselves by the coal and woodstove. We darn near froze.

The water was almost up to the cottages. My older brother and I used to walk along the beach close to the cottages. I recall two boathouses at the east end of the lake, one of which was immediately in front of our present home at 23 Oliver Avenue.

The old pier was still in place close to the Lakeview Hotel. Considerable excitement was created one day when a Sikorski amphibian plane landed on the lake and taxied up to the pier.

Marguerite and I and our family started vacationing at the lake in 1951. Together with Irene and Bert Corey we rented a cottage (present address - 35 Oliver Ave.) from Mr. Morrison, a partner in the Morrison and Johnson Hardware in Lacombe. The tea kettle in the cottage developed a series of leaks. Each time we took it into the hardware, Mr. Morrison would put in another rivet, but refused to provide a new one; his Scotch ancestry was evident.

The following year we rented the Unity cottage (present address 57 Oliver Ave.) from Mrs. Werthenbach (mother of Dr. Fritz Werthenbach). It had a pot-bellied stove which threw a terrific heat. One of the beds had loose coil springs. It rolled around everytime we moved or breathed rhythmically, a real sensation.

We developed a good relationship with our next door neighbors, Jean and Carmen Johnson. They had a propane-fired radiant in their living room which Carmen used quite sparingly. As the company I worked for sold propane from a plant in Turner Valley, I encouraged Carmen to use more propane, but to no avail.

While in the Unity Cottage we made friends with Mary (nee Jackson) and Dunc Stuart. Our son Don, and their nephew, Don, chummed around together in Calgary. One Sunday, Mary, Dunc's brother, Sandy. and I took an old sailboat of Campbell's out in fairly rough weather. The boat leaked so badly that Sandy, who was doing the bailing, never did get his head above the gunnels.

A little later Dunc purchased a homemade sailboat from Stewart Fraser. Dunc and I used to sail together quite frequently, along with Bill Burris and Horace Soley.

One Sunday afternoon Dunc, Bill and I took the sailboat out in weather so rough that we decided to beach the boat on the north side of Walkers Point, where we were invited to join a picnic being held by the Red Deer Kiwanis Club. Our wives watched the boat go behind the point but when we did not return they became frantic. One of the Kiwanians was driving us back on Highway 12, when Mary, together with Fran Burris and Marguerite, whistled by us in the Stuart's yellow Ford. She was going so fast that they didn't see us. We finally caught up with them and enjoyed a good laugh.

On another occasion Dunc and I took the boat out on a Sunday afternoon. Dunc was manning the sail and I was on the tiller. The breeze was relatively light and finally died down so that we were becalmed in the middle of the lake. Some people in motorboats offered to tow us in but we were much too proud for that. About an hour later we noticed a storm brewing in the northwest end of the lake. It developed into a rainstorm with strong winds at about 40-45 miles per hour. We ran with the wind and whistled right by many of the motorboats. We were heading for Brewer's Beach at such a high rate that there was danger of us running out of lake so we decided to come about. We almost made it but a gust tipped us over very gently. As the mast was hollow, the boat lay on its side in the water. Dunc was under the sail but was able to swim out and we both hung on until Popows rescued us. The boat floated in to the beach where Stewart Fraser righted it and we picked it up later that afternoon.

One evening we were down at Mary and Dunc's together with Mary Moore. A storm came up and the swells were about two feet high. Mary Moore, Dunc and I wanted to see if we could handle the boat in this type of weather so we launched the boat with considerable difficulty. After sailing from in front of the Stuart's cottage to Brewer's Beach, we decided to come about. Dunc was on the tiller. He tried to come about into the wind two or three times but was unable to do so due to the height of the swells, so he tried to come about with the wind. The boat tipped over on its side throwing the three of us into the cold water. We hung on until rescued by a motorboat. The motorboat was unable to tow the sailboat in so we allowed it to float in. We were extremely cold when we returned to the cottage, however we thawed out with several hot rums.

Dunc passed away at the lake from a heart attack and Mary subsequently moved to Vancouver where she met and married Dr. Jim Berkeley. We rented the Stuart cottage in 1963 and in 1964 purchased it from Mary.

Together with a son-in-law and help from some friends we closed in the screened-in porch so we had five bedrooms. Together with the hideaway bed in the living room, we could sleep twelve people comfortably. With our family and grandchildren we needed every bed.

We installed a propane tank and circulating heater in 1964. In 1968 we had a water well drilled and installed a septic system. Jack Roberts made the arrangements for drilling the water well. The price was $165 per well providing he could arrange for three wells to be drilled. Ron MacDonald and I each agreed to have a well drilled. The driller was very tardy in commencing to drill. Jack tried several times to prod him, but with no success. Marguerite shamed him into fulfilling his promise so he drilled our well first, then MacDonalds and Jack, who made the original arrangements, was last.

We purchased a horse, Pepper, from Mr. Taylor who rented out horses at a location on Meredith's property. Our children, particularly Cathy and Terry, enjoyed riding and made many good friends.

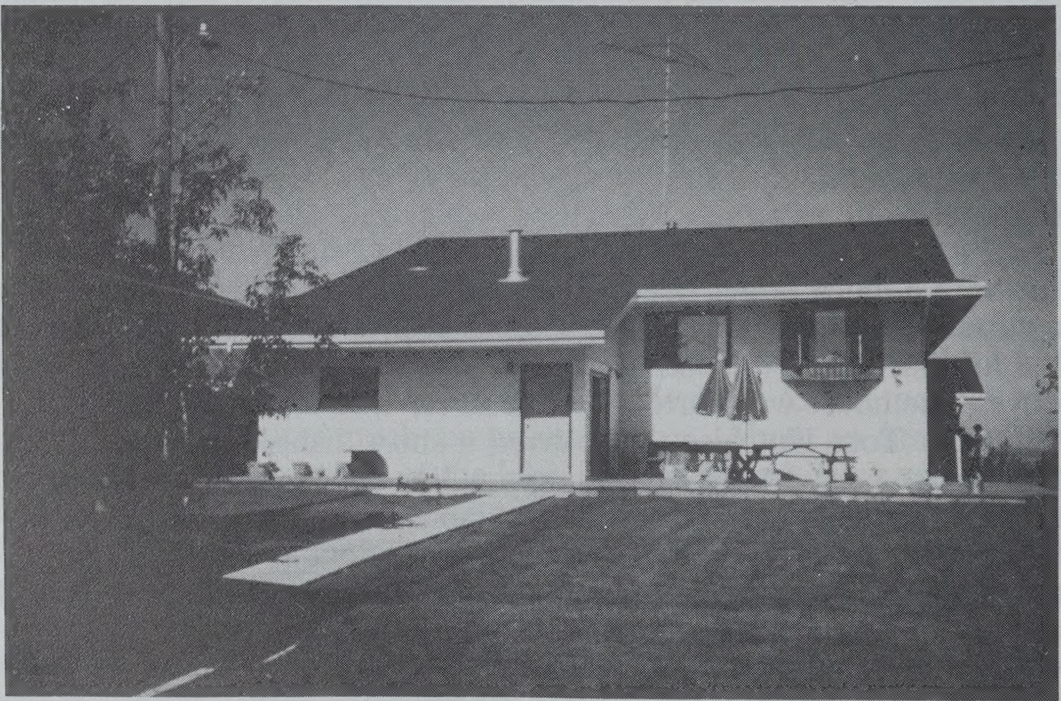
After I retired in 1981 there were so many things that we needed to do to fix the cottage, we decided to tear it down and replace it with a permanent home. One of our sons-in-law, Garry Ford, who was a designer, and I designed the house. Each time we revised the plans we increased the size. It grew like Topsy!

We wound up with a much larger house than we ever contemplated originally. The new garage was started the day after Thanksgiving in 1981. As soon as it was completed we moved all the furniture from the cottage into it. Our friends and family all pitched in and helped us move. The house was started in November, 1981 and was constructed during the winter of 1981-1982. Tom Hutchison, who lived a short distance northeast of us, was the principal contractor. As I was consulting in Vancouver and Victoria for the B.C. Government on a gas hearing, I was only available to go up to the lake on weekends. Marguerite and Garry were marvelous in looking after details. By the summer of 1982 we were able to use the house and spent about half our time at the lake and the other half in Calgary. We took up permanent residence on September 1, 1983.

Marguerite and I both became involved in Community associations. Marguerite was Secretary-Treasurer of the Community League and also a director.

With the formation of the Gull Lakers Half Century Club in 1984, I became Vice-President, and together with Syd Sutherland, made arrangements for a number of programs with financial assistance from the Provincial Government. In 1986 I was elected President and am now serving my second term. I am also a director of the Community League and one of the principal organizers of the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Marguerite, Cathy and Gordon Connell with "Ro."



1985 - The new" Mar-C-Conn" Cottage

MEMORIES OF GULL LAKE

# 17 Oliver Avenue

By H. Stanley Clark

My first visit to Gull Lake was as a teenager in the early 1920's. I visited at Dr. Malcolmson's cottage with his sons Geoffrey and Patrick. We drove there late at night and were stopped en route by the R.C.M.P. because there had been a robbery in Ponoka or some other town. In those days the highway went through each town.

My next visit was also to the Malcolmson's cottage, only this time we travelled by train. We took the midnight train for Calgary from Edmonton. We stayed in the Lacombe railway station until the next morning when we took the local train for Bentley and got off at the Aspen Beach station.

1949 - Stanley and Florence Clark with daughters, Helen and Marjorie.

In those days the lakeshore was only a hundred feet from the cottages. We went to dances at the two hotels on alternate nights. We also went to a party at Mrs. McNab's cottage where we danced.

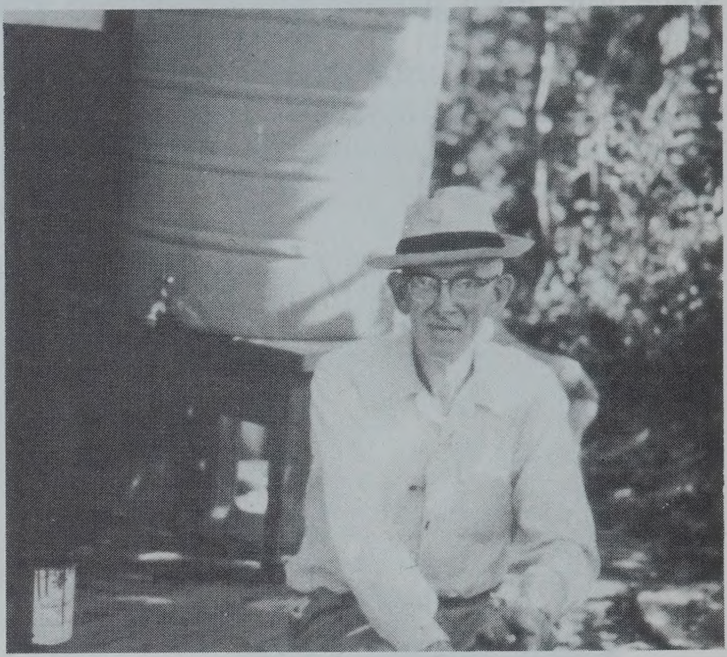
Twenty years later in the 1940's, my wife, Florence, and I and our daughters, Helen and Marjorie, rented a cottage from Mrs. McNab and spent our holidays at the lake. We rented various cottages for three or four seasons until we found one we wanted to purchase.

The cottage we bought was a log cottage that belonged to Kenny Kinnaird. This was one of the early cottages and was built about 1906. The Kinnairds were the second owners. The original owner was a Mr. Denike, a jeweller in Lacombe.

When we first bought the cottage, we hired Ernie Fernie, who lived in the large frame house across the road, to reshingle the roof and build a garage. There was no electricity in those days. Coal oil lamps were common and we had one "gas" lamp that used gasoline and needed to be pumped up before lighting. It gave a white light that was much brighter than the coal oil lamps. We had an ice box and a wood stove. We bought ice and wood from Ted Jenkins. We hauled our water from the village well at Fernie's.

Each summer my wife and the girls went to the lake for the entire school holidays. I went out each weekend and usually for two or three weeks holidays. We would ship the girls' bicycles and several boxes to the lake by train. The car would be loaded with suitcases and bags. Once I tied a gunny sack full of shoes and rubber boots on the running board of the car. The rope broke and the sack fell off and was lost. My wife would keep the car out at the lake for the summer and I travelled back and forth from Edmonton by train or with friends.

1967 - Florence Clark with granddaughters Jocelyn Ellis, Cathy and Lori McNaught.



1978 - Stanley Clark in front of rain-water barrel.

Our cottage had an upstairs and we had five bedrooms. We would invite many friends and relatives to come out for a visit during the summer. Visitors came from Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Saskatoon. We even had visitors from Hawaii and England.

We had a row boat and a small motor. The motor never ran very well and we often had a long walk or row home from our boat rides. Once, my daughter, Helen, was caught in a storm on the lake and the boat overturned. It was an anxious time until they were rescued.

Our daughters had many friends at the Lake. One year a group of young people put on a Penny Carnival in front of our cottage to raise money for the recreation commission. The girls took swimming lessons both at the lake and in Lacombe. One year we drove down to Lacombe in the fall for a special award dinner and presentation of Red Cross badges. My wife was elected as a councillor for two terms and she found that an interesting experience. We bought chickens from Hugs every weekend and fresh vegetables from the vendors on the back road. We played soft ball in front of the cottage and had bonfires and sing-songs.

In the 1960's my granddaughters started coming out to the lake cottage. It was nice to have three generations at the cottage together. My wife and I bought a swing set for the yard and had a play house built.

Over the forty years we made many improvements to the cottage. When electricity became available we put in lights and an electric stove and refrigerator. We later added a telephone and a baseboard heater. A major improvement was a well that we drilled with our neighbour, Bob Blackett. This gave us running hot and cold water. Tom Hutchison made several repairs and renovations for us.

Our most recent change was the purchase of the lot and cabin next door from Mr. and Mrs. John Ellen of Lacombe. Seventy-five years ago these two lots were owned by one person, but over the years they were sub-divided. I guess my 75th anniversary accomplishment was to put the two lots back under one owner again.

FOND MEMORIES

# 17 Oliver Avenue

By Marjorie Clark (McNaught) Campbell

My first summers at Gull Lake were spent in a small cabin that my parents, Florence and Stanley Clark, rented from Mrs. McNab of Edmonton. This cabin was located at the east end of the Lake road next door to Mrs. McNab's big cottage (#75 Oliver Avenue). In later years, Mrs. McNab's daughter and son-in-law, Isabelle and Art Griswald, built a modern cabin on the lot. This cabin subsequently burnt to the ground and was replaced by the home of Mr. & Mrs. Kamlah.

The cabin only had one bedroom. My sister, Helen, and I slept in a screened porch. There was a pot-bellied stove in the living room and a wood-burning cook stove in the kitchen. There was no electricity and the pump seemed like it was a long way away to a six year old.

My early memories are happy ones. Helen and I played outside from early morning until bedtime. We had a collection of tin cars (in later years they were made of plastic). We built elaborate towns in the hard sand. Each car had its own house and we made roads with the coal shovel. We played Cowboys and Indians and all sorts of other games. We made many lake friends.

I can remember watching Mrs. McNab building her beautiful stone walk and retaining walls at the front of her cottage. I would marvel at her strength and endurance as she carried all those stones from the far east end of the lake.

Every morning Helen and I went to Dolly's store to pick up the mail and buy the groceries for the day. This is where I discovered the thrill of saying "charge it". (Something my husband wishes I had never learned!). We would go back to Dolly's at night with Mom to phone Dad. It often took ages to make the call but it was always entertaining waiting and visiting in Dolly's store. There wasn't a store at Fernie's in the 40's but we did go to Sunday School at Mrs. Fernie's.

Each summer our family made one full-day trip to Sylvan Lake. We usually did this for my birthday in August. We would walk on the long pier, take a ride on the motor launch and eat dinner in the old hotel.

After a few summers of renting, my parents knew that Gull Lake was the place for us and we bought a lovely old log cabin across from Fernie's. We went out to the Lake for the entire summer and loved every day. We were at the "Lacombe end" of the lake road and we soon met a number of new families that we remained friends with over the years.

Well do I remember the days before electricity! What a production it was to wash the dishes or the clothes when you had to start by hauling the water from the pump and heating it on the wood stove. My mother was nervous about being alone at night, so she would read until daybreak before going to sleep.

The 1950's were my teenage years and they were filled with carefree happy summers at Gull Lake. There were teenage boys at the Campbell cottage (Lawrence Campbell of Lacombe) and teenage girls at the Clark cottage. Before long, a social group was established and many summer romances! I learned to drive at Brewers Beach and to dance at Sylvan Lake. Helen and I had access to the family car (a 1947 Mercury) and that made us very popular. The gang went to the Red Deer Drive-In at least once a week. We usually had more kids than money, so some always had to sneak in. Kids under twelve were free, so I was "under twelve" for many summers. Once the ticket attendant remarked that his twelve-year-old was much smaller than me and "Tuts" Newman quickly replied that it wasn't our fault if he didn't feed his kid.

My mother taught us to play bridge at an early age, as she often needed an extra player. We played Canasta and Rummoli for days on end. Maybe my memory is wrong, but it seems like the summers were hotter and dryer in the past. The odd rainy days were looked forward to, because we would stay inside and play cards.

1979 - Stanley Clark with daughters, Marjorie and Helen and granddaughters, Cathy, Jennifer, Lori and Jocelyn.

I have mentioned all the nice things about Gull Lake, but what about the bats and mice? They are very much a part of my early memories. When Dad wasn't at the lake it was my job to take the dead mice out of the traps in the mornings. We used to catch bats in an old popcorn popper and drown them in the rain-water barrel. Once we got electricity, the vacuum cleaner became a great way to dispose of them. I can remember my mother trying to catch a bat in our bedroom and becoming very cross with Helen and me because we wouldn't keep our heads out of the covers and watch where the bat flew. I guess the bat I had in the cottage last summer was just a reminder that our cottage isn't impermeable.

In the 60's and early 70's, my daughters, Cathy, Lori and Jennifer were born and a third generation of our family started spending their summers at Gull Lake. During this time, the Garries' opened their laundromat at Bentley and life for a mother with small children at the lake became much easier.

For fifteen years, the girls and I lived in British Columbia, but we still liked to spend time at Gull Lake. All our B.C. friends knew about the lake and many came to visit us there.

In 1983, I married Cliff Campbell and acquired four step-children. Cliff and Tom Hutchison built a bathroom and remodeled the kitchen. We bought a power boat and water skis. Now we come to the lake with ten to twelve kids (our own plus friends). Cliff spends the weekends in the boat pulling water-skiers and I spend the weekend in the kitchen organizing the cooking and the clean-up crews. Sounds hectic but we really do have fun. I am happy to see something that was so much a part of my childhood becoming a meaningful part of my childrens' lives too.

3RD GENERATION AT #17 OLIVER AVENUE

By Jenny McNaught

Although I am only 17, I have many wonderful memories of summers spent at Gull Lake. For as long as I can remember, I have spent part of every summer at the lake with my Grandpa, Stanley Clark, my Mom, Marjorie McNaught Campbell, and my two sisters, Cathy and Lori.

1976 - Three generations at #17 Oliver Avenue, Stanley Clark, Marjorie McNaught and Jennifer McNaught.

When I was old enough to begin bringing friends to the cabin, I warned them of the bats, outhouse, creaky staircase, and so on. This scared them a little at first but they soon fell in love with the lake and went home with memories they won't forget.

One thing that sticks in the minds of all visitors to the cabin is to try not to sit on the down slope of the dinner table. Long ago, the eating area was a screened porch, and naturally, it was slanted to allow the rain to drain off. Unfortunately, now our table is on a slant and with ten kids at most meals, you don't want to be on the receiving end of the spilt milk carton.

Another thing that everyone soon becomes aware of is that closing doors does not close out noise, especially at 7:00 a.m. when Grandpa decides that it is time to eat breakfast with him. Or if banging the pots doesn't work, he will simply light a fire in the stove and smoke us all out of bed.

One thing I enjoy about the Lake is that there is always so much to do. Some of our full day projects include digging massive holes in the sand and then burying people up to their necks. The most fun part of this is seeing how long it takes them to get themselves out after everyone leaves them and goes for a swim. On the really hot days I love to go on to the road and walk on the soft tar. However, this is only great until you get home and Mom makes you spend twenty minutes scrubbing your feet before coming into the cabin.

1977 - Lori McNaught, Jenny McNaught and Susan Grace buried in the sand.

Even though all of us are aware that the lake is receding, to me it has seemed to get closer. I guess as I get older and taller, the walk gets shorter.

Whenever I see the new town hall I think of how beautiful it is, but I will never forget some of my most precious memories in the old red and white hall. I can remember a penny carnival that Christi Ferguson (my best lake friend) and I helped to organize. Christi volunteered to be the fortune teller. I was curious and asked her how she learned to read palms. Boy was I surprised when she informed me that she merely looked at the hand and made everything else up!

I also remember, after the new town hall was built, the fantastic pj. parties we had. Two movies were rented, one for the little kids and one for us older ones. After the younger children were asleep we would watch our scary movie. One year we saw "Dawn of the Dead" and no one slept after that. At another sleep-over at the hall, Christi and I stole out about 2:00 a.m. to have a skinny dip. We thought we were pretty smart until we realized that we were not alone on the beach!

While the sun filled days at the Lake are wonderful, the sunsets are even better. I have always enjoyed stormy nights. On these nights everyone gathers in the living room to tell stories or play games. These special times bring our family together and create a bond between us. This is one of the magic moments Gull Lake has created for me. I am quite sure that this village will continue to warm hearts and affect families for another 75 years to come.

MEMORIES OF GULL LAKE

By Jessie Fernie Gibbons

My father, George Fernie, had an accident when he was a child in London, England. Although it left him with one leg shorter than the other, he could do nearly anything. He was known as a jack of all trades. He built our original house in the early 1900's. He covered the outside with tin as there were many prairie fires in the early days due to the long grass. My father built and remodeled many other houses at the lake, and also built many fireplaces.

My mother and dad met at the village well on our property. In the summer of 1912, my mother had found employment working for Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jackson of Lacombe, who had a cottage across the road from our place. My father threw out his pail of water so he could go to the well and meet her. They were married on November 26th of that year.

1932 - George Fernie by his gas pump.

I don't know when the Wiese family moved away from the Lake, but my mom and dad acted as caretakers of their place for a year or two, and I believe I was born in the Wiese house. My older brother, Bruce was born in 1914, followed by myself, Ernest, Rose, Walter and Dorothy. As there was no school at the Lake, we all took our schooling at Woody Nook School one mile east and two miles south of the place.

My father developed a dray business to help cottagers get to and from the lake and also sold wood and ice, taking orders at a small store in our home. As the lake became more popular, he expanded his business, putting up more wood and ice. My father had a wood-sawing outfit, part of which he had developed himself. He would haul it to our neighbors' yards and saw up their year's supply of wood. They, in turn, would come back and help him. It usually took two to three days to saw up our wood pile.

My father built two splitting machines to split up the big blocks so they would fit into the cottage's stove. He also built a little railway car to haul the blocks to the splitting machine.

He built a log ice house in which he stored several tons of ice for the summer trade. The ice was packed around the edge of the ice house and covered with a foot of sawdust, which he hauled from the Cummings' mill. Ice cutting on the lake usually started about the middle of January and took three weeks to complete. Blocks were cut two feet square and the depth of the ice. One year, I believe it was 1934, the ice had frozen so deep he had to cut the blocks in half before he could pull them out of the water. They were hauled home by sleigh and packed close together in the ice house. My father made all his ice tongs on his forge. He delivered ice to the cottages four times a week.

My father was hired by the Village to make a large diving platform for the pier and to build two slides, one for small children and another for adults. He also did maintenance work for the Village.

My mother was a very busy person, especially during the summer months, taking care of her family of six children, managing a store, taking orders for wood and ice. After the Lake View Hotel was torn down, the telephone exchange and the Post Office were moved to our store. My brothers and sisters and I would deliver messages to the cottagers, telling them to come to the telephone office for a phone call. Two girls were hired each summer to help Mother. As we grew older, we helped more and more.

The Lake boys and girls each had softball teams and two or three tournaments were held at the Lake. We thoroughly enjoyed playing softball. I was the Captain for the girls' team. We had a grand team and won many games.

My brother, Ernest, was an excellent swimmer and diver. He and some of his friends liked to spend Sunday afternoons putting on a swimming and diving display off the diving board on the pier. Sometimes they would dive too close to the pier and splash water on the people. Most accepted it with good humour, but some got angry at the boys for their pranks.

Skating was always a popular sport in the winter. The ice was clear of snow and many hockey games were held. My brothers all played for the Gull Lake team, and after World War II, Ernie and Walter played for Bentley.

In late November, 1935, my brother Bruce, my fiancee Tom Gibbons, and I skated around the lake. There was no snow and the ice had frozen as clear as glass. We skated along the north-east side against a fairly strong, cold wind. Towards the north end, the ice became thinner and finally there was open water. We walked at least three miles over rocks. Further around the lake, the ice would hold one person and we skated single file for miles along the west side. The wind was behind us now and we made faster time going back.

I married Tom Gibbons at Blackfalds on March 24, 1937 and moved to a farm but we came back to the lake to help in the summers.

My father died from a stroke in February 1939.. That spring, Ernie, Walt, Tom and I tore down the dance hall that Dad had built beside the house in 1926. We remodelled the house and added a second story. By this time, Bruce had married and moved to Edmonton. He joined the Air Force and died in a plane crash in 1941. Ernie also joined the Air Force and Walter joined the Army. Both saw overseas duty in Europe but came back to the lake. Dorothy joined the C.W.A.C.S. and was stationed in Calgary. Rose moved to Edmonton to go to business college and then worked in Edmonton. Mother sold the property about 1948.

1932 - The Fernie Family, Walter, Bruce, Ernest, Mrs. Fernie, Rose, Jessie and Mr. Fernie, with Dorothy in front.

1935 - Walter Fernie and Hugh McLeod delivering the Edmonton Journal.

"AVAREST"
# 15 Oliver Avenue

By Bob Blackett

"Avarest" is one of the few Village cottages still owned by members of the family that built it in 1909. Clair Blackett, my grandfather, bought the property from a developer and contractor, G.G. Mobley, in February 1909 so that my grandmother, their four children and friends had a summer retreat from Edmonton. Many family friends also built or bought cottages at about the same time including the McQueens, the Mays, the Kinnairds, the Imries, the Archibalds, the Dawsons, the Bishops and the Lees.

The neighbours come for coffee; the Connells, the Blacketts, the Susuts and the Williamsons.

I think the original structure was a large single room, now the living room, plus a sort of lean-to back porch. They slept on cots and hammocks scattered around the room. Cooking was done on an oil stove. By 1914 they had added a fireplace, several bedrooms, a washroom, screened porches and a kitchen all around the central room. A wood stove was added in the kitchen. There was a small water pump in the kitchen that drew water from the lake (in those days the water line was very close to the front property line).

Walter (my father), Berry, Irma and Cecil used the place a lot during July and August through the teens and 20's with some time out during World War 1. There were plenty of activities including boating, swimming, bonfires and singing, and lots of good food. When my aunts were teenagers and young adults, parties and dances at the Thistle Inn and Fernie's Hall ("Tain't Much") were in vogue. Irma was a competitive swimmer at lake events. My grandmother was a devoted cook and did all her canning and preserving while at the lake. I understand the stoves were busy places.

Travel to the lake in the early days was a bit tedious by today's standards. At first it was train from Edmonton to Lacombe, an overnight at a hotel there, then horse drawn carriage and wagon to the lake. I assume they used the Peanut later on but have never heard any stories about it. Understandably, they packed plenty of supplies for a two month stay. None of the running back and forth that we do today.

Later on, an automobile trip down the old C & E Trail was an event in itself as it wove back and forth across the CPR tracks. By the time I came along in 1926 the trip was about a half day's journey. When I was very young, the 12 mile drive from Lacombe to the cottage seemed an eternity what with all the excitement. In the 1930's that stretch of pavement between Ponoka and Lacombe was a bit of heaven. It was built to test bitumen from an early McMurray oil sands plant.

My earliest memories of the drive, which meant travelling through each small community on the somewhat winding, narrow gravel road included a guessing game. My sister Barbara and I could collect a penny for naming in advance the next village, grain elevator or town. By the time my children were making the trip in the 1960's the game changed to who could first spot on-coming Volkswagen Beetles and calling out "Beetle-Bug".

My Uncle Cecil and Aunt Berry Hardisty looked after the place in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. When Cecil left Alberta, Berry was in charge. As a working widow she struggled a bit to keep it up, sometimes renting it, but always with the objective of keeping it in the family. I came to really appreciate that. Edith and I honeymooned there in 1955 as it was a very convenient get-away for an increasingly busy oilfield engineer. She often chides me about the first-ever pie she baked, during her honeymoon, on the old woodstove - a very delicious Saskatoon berry pie! That stove is now a large flower pot at a cabin southwest of Calgary.

Edith and Bob Blackett, with Jeffery and John Blackett.

My family began using the cottage in earnest in the 1960's and ever since. As ever, the lake is a marvelous place for kids notwithstanding the modern day very long hike to the water. When Donald and Nancy were very little it took quite a while to make the trip. Electricity over took coal oil in 1949, a well and septic system beats a hand pump at a well down the beach road, the ice box has given way to a refrigerator, the fireplace often plays second fiddle to a furnace and the privy gets used only once in a while. My daughter has even lived there while commuting to Red Deer where she worked for a while. Notwithstanding all the modern conveniences, life and living at the lake changes slowly which is the way we like it.

A fifth generation, Clair and Martha Blackett's great, great granddaughter Keltie, is now coming to the lake and we think she likes it. In the 75th year of the S.V.G.L. she is only 21 years away from celebrating the 100th anniversary of one family at Gull Lake!

"THE RED GATE COTTAGE"
#9 Oliver Avenue

By Grant M. Smith

The Red Gate was one of the early cottages on the lake. It was built by Alexander Esson May, his wife Elizabeth, and his sons (Court and Wop) and his daughter (Vera Belle May) in about 1907. When Alexander May died in 1932, Wilfred Reid "Wop" May and his wife Violet Aileen Body "Vi" May became the owners.

Wop May is widely known for his flying skills, being one of the early bush pilots in Western Canada. Wop's father Alex, had an "Overlander" car dealership in Edmonton so the family always drove from Edmonton to the Lake. Vi and the two children, Joyce and Denny, would go to the Lake in early July and stay until the end of August. Wop, who enjoyed the lake, would visit whenever time permitted. Like many men, Wop was away from the lake for both World War I and World War II. His son, Denny, recalls the World War II summers when Gull Lake was a village of women and children. Most of the grocery shopping was done at Dolly's and Ott's and on rare occasions, in Lacombe.

Like other cottages, the Mays used coal oil lamps for light. The lamps are still in the cottage and are used on occasion during power failures. The Mays had a water well beside the cottage. They drew water with a small hand pump that was mounted on the kitchen counter. The pump has been replaced with a pressure system although the pump remains as a souvenir of a past era.

Denny May recalls the RCAF training planes during the second World War flying over and dropping "goodies" for the children, creating a massive treasure hunt.

Wop May was big on life-saving and about the end of the second World War arranged for a community "rocker". The "rocker" looked like a stretcher with a saw horse mounted in the middle. You would strap the patient onto the stretcher and, as you rocked, it would pump the water out of the stomach. We don't believe it was ever used other than for demonstration and training. The contraption was stored in a shed, which Wop May built for the purpose, by the water front. The device, rusted and the canvas rotted, was recently taken to the dump.

Wop May sold the cabin in 1949 when he was transferred from Edmonton to Vancouver by C.P. Air. The cabin was purchased by Russ and Sue Park. Russ, at that time, was Merchandise Manager of the Bay in Calgary.

Russ and Sue were very good friends with Jack and Mary Petrie (my Uncle and Aunt). The Petries have a cottage near the Rimrock store. Every spring, as part of the cottage opening ritual, the shutter from the Petrie's front window would go to the Park's where it was used to support the Parks' bed. We recently replaced the box spring and mattress so the shutter is no longer required.

Russ Park and Jack Petrie did a number of joint projects at both cottages. They built both the front and back porches on the Red Gate. The back porch has recently been replaced with a much larger version. Another joint project was the building of a gate for the property. The gate was painted a bright red, hence the cottage name came to be "The Red Gate".

Russ Park was transferred by the Bay from Calgary to Winnipeg. While in Winnipeg the Parks would spend approximately one month each summer at the lake.

When the Bay transferred the Parks to Montreal, Quebec in 1962, they reluctantly sold the cottage to my mother, Mrs. Ralph (Mary) Smith. She immediately made a number of improvements to the cottage; the hand water pump was replaced with a pressure system, a bedroom turned into a bathroom, an addition created a fourth bedroom and the screened porch was closed creating a dining room. One of the so-called improvements was a contraption called a "destroilet". The destroilet was to function as a toilet. You lined it with a plastic bag, used the machine, closed the lid and pressed the button. With great noise the toilet bowl would open, dropping the bag and contents into a lower chamber. The lower chamber was propane powered and would go through a burn cycle designed to eliminate all waste material. The device never did work for more than a few days without having to return to the shop for repairs. Eventually the repair estimate was such that we donated it to the repair shop and went back to using the "Blue Room" (outhouse).

When my mother passed away in 1980 she left the cottage to me. Since then, I have made a few improvements; installed a septic system, redid the kitchen, upgraded the beds and replaced the back porch with a large porch that we use extensively for both relaxing and eating. The woodwork in the living room is largely unaltered from the original work of Alexander, Court, Wop and Vera May. The door frame from the living room to the dining room is marked with the height, name and ages of lake children dating back to the cottage's early years.

1956 - Jack Petrie and Russ Park at "Red Gate".

1954 - The Red Gate

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

LAKEVIEW AND STUART AVENUES

MEMORIES OF GULL LAKE

By Margaret Aldwinckle Shortliffe

My parents rented a cottage at Gull Lake for one month each summer from 1920 to 1933. The cottage was owned by Dr. Sharpe of Lacombe. This cottage was purchased by the Provincial Government and made into a changing house when the Government Pier was built.

1912 - Annah Coverdale at "Aspern Subdivision"

Alfred Coverdale, a brother of my grandfather, Isaac Coverdale, operated a stage coach to Bentley and Rimbey in the early 1900's. I remember riding in the back seat of my grandpa's McLaughlin-Buick open touring car, piled high with bedding, bound for the cottage at Gull Lake. Dr. Sharpe's large living room with a porch faced the lake, and had an open fireplace opposite. Upstairs, two large bedrooms gave extra space. This was where the children usually slept, dormitory style on mattresses installed in built-in bunks, two double bunks to each room. The walls were papered to the ceilings with funny papers. I remember climbing precariously high on top of bureaus to read more "Mutt and Jeff" or Katzenjammer Kids" or "Maggie and Jiggs" as long as the light lasted!

One year, I took the two records that I owned, to play on our portable wind-up record player. They gave me great pleasure until one day when the law was laid down. My grandpa announced, "Margit, if you play them records once more today, I'll smash 'em!" They were "Dinah" sung by Bing Crosby and/or the Mills Brothers, and Rudy Vallee singing "Deep River". Grandpa obviously had no taste in music! I think that was the same year he bought me "We", the Charles Lindbergh account of his solo fight. Would that be 1927?

THE CROFT HOME

#9 Lakeview Avenue

By Priscilla Croft

Mr. William Wiese arrived at Gull Lake in 1900. Shortly afterwards he acquired a large parcel of land fronting on the lake. He had his land subdivided into lots one to twenty-eight in January of 1905.

Our present home at # 9 Lakeview Avenue was part of lot three. Previous owners include John McKenty of Lacombe, Lawrence Adamson of Edmonton, John O'Neil Hayes of Edmonton, and Dr. George Malcolmson of Edmonton. In 1931, the title was registered to Helen Victoria Hyndman, who subdivided the property and sold half to Dr. Richard Young and his wife, Donna Jean. After Dr. Young's death, his widow remarried and the title was issued to Donna Jean Elliott.

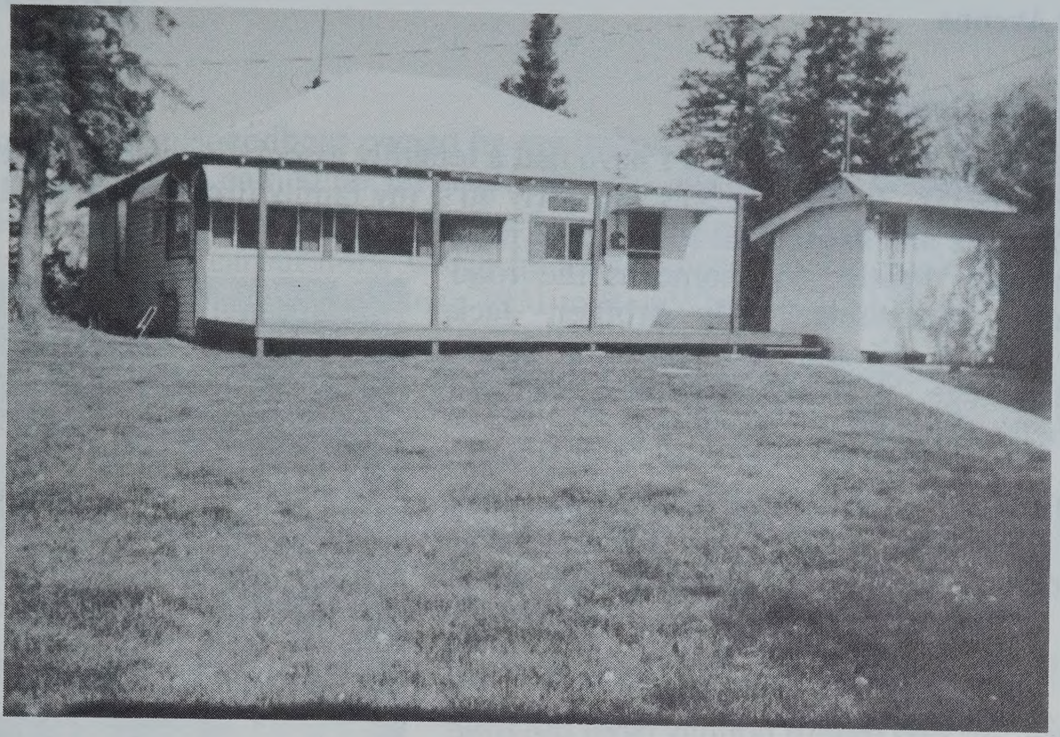
My husband, Alick, and I purchased this property from Mrs. Elliott in 1960. We completely renovated the original cabin, and made several additions to it. In 1970, we put on a new roof and drilled our own well. We had lots of friends and visitors on weekends who helped us renovate the cabin. We had the cabin lifted and a foundation put under it and installed a propane furnace, making it quite comfortable for winter weekends.

We had our boat for summer use and a snowmobile for the winter. We even came to the lake once to attend the New Year's Eve dance at the Community Hall. We have many wonderful memories of this time.

In 1975, we bought another cabin at Gull Lake. This once was opposite the roadway to Aspen Beach. We allowed our grown sons to use this cottage, which meant much less work for me. In 1978, our oldest son, Terry, bought the property from us. He lived in our cabin while he built a new cabin on his property. In the summer of 1980, our youngest son, Doug, got a job in Red Deer and he and a friend spent the winter living in our cabin.

By the spring of 1981, we started our plans to make our retirement home at Gull Lake. We started by building a double garage and later got a permit for an addition to our cabin. We installed a modern bathroom, a utility room and a mud room. We had our furnace converted to natural gas and had gas lines installed in the cabin and garage.

In the spring of 1983, we built a boat shed and utility shed to match our garage. We then built a sundeck the full length of our cottage. With the completion of the deck, we started the process of completely gutting the original cabin. It was quite a job as that cabin was built to last. We completed our renovations during the next year, and in May 1985, we moved to Gull Lake permanently. This is our third winter at the lake and God willing, I hope we will have many more. It goes without saying that it is a quiet place to live during the winter months, however, with the coming of the spring and the return of the summer residents, it will be as always - a beautiful place to call home.



The Croft home after addition in 1982.

Ott: *"Never plant potatoes next to the onion."*

Why?

Ott: *"Because the potatoes will cry their eyes out."*

Ott and his son Dale were repairing the roof of Ott's store. Ott warned Dale to walk on the beams so he wouldn't come through the ceiling. On Dale's third trip, he came through the ceiling and landed on Ott, much to Ott's consternation.

MEMORIES
#19 Stuart Avenue

By Pat Robinson George

Both my husband, Ted George, and I have had a lengthly association with Gull Lake. (Ted, 1928 and Pat, 1935). In the late 30's and early 40's, my family drove out from Lacombe to the Lake to picnic and swim. If it looked like rain, Dad immediately headed for home as the road soon became impassable. My brother, Jack Robinson, spent many summers visiting at Sandy Campbell's cottage. I visited at Pratt's, Wilson's and Campbell's cottages.

1969 - Pam, Betty and Scott George ready for the Gull Lake Costume Parade.

In 1954, Ted and I purchased a lot from Jack Collett of Lacombe. Ted and a friend, Pat Wingrove of Edmonton, built the cottage in 1959, along with help from all our relatives and friends who could use a hammer or sander.

This lake was our two month holiday from the time we built the cottage. Our children, Pam, Betty and Scott, went there as babies. We had diapers on the line by 7:30 a.m. each morning until the laundromat opened in Bentley. The children loved the lake. They made friends at the Gull Lake activities and at the Bible School sponsored by the Christian Reform Church. The Gull Lake recreation program with the Recreation Director was the best program ever devised! I remember sleeping in the cottage with the door locked while the children were out in the bush by the hall wandering around awake all night at the "sleep-out". Needless to say, they came in early the next morning to sleep the day away.

Both Pam and Betty love to come back to the lake with their children to renew their friendships and enjoy the lake with their families.

In 1982, we built an addition on the cabin. Ted and I really enjoy all our lake friends, and a summer association with Ted's cousin, Harry Noble, his wife Joan, and their family.

Ott: *"She was only the Postmaster's daughter but she sure could handle the (mails) males."*

MISS PATRICIA II

By Ted George, Jr.

Miss Patricia II was a speedboat owned by my father, Ted George Sr., in the late 20's and early 30's. The boat was named for my sister, Patricia, and was well known on the lake. The unique styling was designed and built by my father and powered by a 45 H.P. Johnson Sea Horse motor with twin carburators, which he also designed. For three years, it held the Alberta Championship but lost the title in 1931 to Reg Whyte of Red Deer.

During this time, our family was located at Cook's Point near Rimbey. I remember going across to Meridian Beach where you were able to step out of the boat and on to the steps leading to Art MacDonald's cottage, the "Red Robin".

I remember a Sunday outing when we boated across the lake to the concession stand at Aspen Beach, for the newly discovered ice cream cone. Suddenly, one of Gull Lake's treacherous squalls came up and we barely made it back to Cook's Point.

I remember race day at Aspen Beach. My father would be racing Miss Patricia II and my sister and I would run up and down what we thought, was the most enormous pier in the world.

I remember the large, three-cornered hotel (Thistle Inn) and its formal dining room with white tableclothes and uniformed waitresses. Sometimes we would stay overnight. From the bedrooms you could hear the orchestra and the people dancing on the roof.

1931 - Miss Patricia II

GULL LAKE MEMORIES

#21 Stuart Avenue

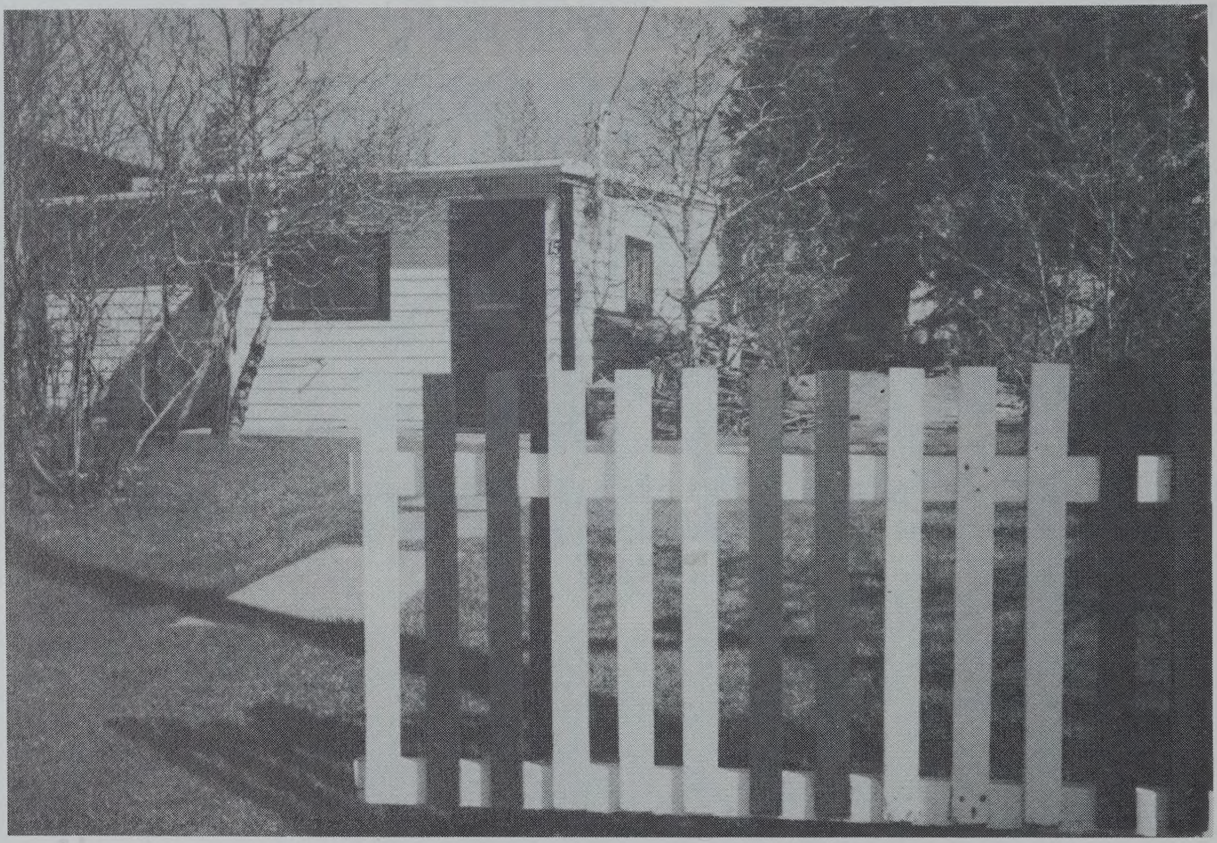
By Gordon & Jessie Lund

Jessie grew up in Lacombe and spent a lot of time in the summer at Gull Lake. Her parents, Harry and Alice Teare, rented Hardwick's and Carruther's cottages and also visited the Hay cottage. Along with her sister, Gert Talbot, and brother, Fred Teare, they remember the great bonfires and games that were played on the beach. In those days, if you had a bonfire, everyone came and joined in the fun. The same was true with games such as "steal sticks" and "prisoner's base".

In those days, most cottages had woodstoves and fireplaces, oil lamps and outside toilets, but that didn't seem to be a problem. A lot of the old outside screen porches have been closed in now or incorporated into the cottages.

The cottage that Gordon and Jessie Lund own was built about 1959 by Jack and Betty Ferris of Red Deer. When Jack built the cottage, he got the windows for the front porch from the old F.E. McLeod Store in Lacombe. Jack and Betty and son, Bill, and daughter, Ann, remember their good times at the lake too.

The Ferrises put a well in the year after the cottage was built and added a bathroom. The Lunds purchased this cottage in 1962.



1988 - The Lund home.

PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS
#37 Lakeview Drive

By Peter McCalla

I have been going to Gull Lake for 67 years. The original owner of my cottage was Dr. J.S. McEachern of Calgary whose brother-in-law built it in 1917.

Here are a few personal highlights from my Gull Lake memories:

1. 1930 Federal Election: Peter McCalla's father built two bonfires on the beach in front of the cottage. The plan was that the large one would be lit if R.B.Bennett (Cons.) won, and the small one (much smaller) would be lit if McKenzie King (Lib.) was the victor. There was a large happy crowd present when the torch was put to the large bonfire.

Sunset at Gull Lake.

2. Refrigeration: In the early '30's the families of W.E. Elliot and A.I. McCalla dug a 25 ft. deep well between the two cottages. It was wood cribbed and had a cover. Each family kept perishable food in a pail at the end of a rope, the rope tied to a strong nail. Dairy products, meats, fresh vegetables and fruit kept beautifully. At the time the cottages had no electricity, so the well made an excellent refrigerator.

3. Mr. Jenkins: Most mornings, for several years, many of the residents of the village were awakened at a very early hour by Mr. Jenkins calling his livestock, using many four letter words, at the top of his lungs.

4. Pranks: As young boys were left at the lake for the whole summer, there was plenty of time to think up mischief. One of the more successful pranks involved making a dummy wearing old clothes and Bob Reikie's shoes and leaving it on the back road at dusk. The first car that came along ran over the "body". and the driver and his wife reacted with satisfying hysteria. On discovering the trick, the driver shouted that he was calling the R.C.M.P. in Lacombe immediately, and the terrified kids flew home and cowered in a darkened cottage for the rest of the night. Bob's shoes were discovered several days later on the woodpile behind Ott's store.

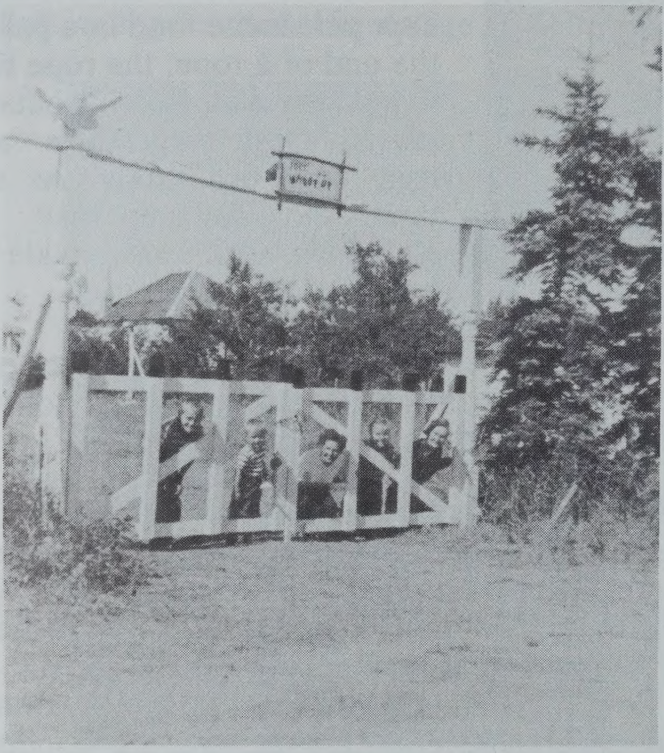
THE AGNEW FAMILY AT GULL LAKE 1954 - 1987
#41 Lakeview Avenue

By Barry Agnew

The first cabin, "Fort Whoop-Up", was purchased by my grandparents, Alex and Martha McTavish for their children and grandchildren, Don and Verna McTavish (Diane, Carol, Cameron), Ruth and Douglas Agnew (Barry, Bonnie, Robson).

The cabin was built about 1908 and has not really changed very much since. In the 'fifties' there was electricity but no indoor plumbing. Water was heated by a beautiful, but inefficient, fieldstone fireplace. A cast iron wood stove provided additional warmth in the lean-to kitchen.

I was about nine years old when my grandparents bought the cabin. My first memories are of the never ending search for firewood with my grandfather. He was a very thrifty man and was always scrounging wood to feed the ever-hungry fires. His favorite area for these firewood expeditions was what we called "the swamp"- cultivated fields at the east end of the village. Many hours were spent "rustling wood" in the swamp, and many more cutting and splitting it with an old bucksaw and double-bitted axe. It was a long time before I realized that for a price, someone would actually deliver logs right to the cabin, all neatly split and ready for the stove!


1955 - "Fort Whoop-up", Martha McTavish and Ruth Agnew with Agnew children.

1954 - Alex and Martha McTavish with daughter, Ruth Agnew and grandchildren.

The swamp was the scene of many childhood adventures which were marred only by a particularly vicious mosquito population, and frequent encounters with stinging nettles. At that time, before the cottages were built, the area was full of a multitude of birds of every description, "secret" trails snaking through the dense bush, and forts were built on the edge of the clearings.

In the summers, time at our cabin was shared equally between my family and my uncle's family. On special occasions, the whole family would get together. While it was great fun for the kids, our parents were somewhat less than enthusiastic about having all twelve of us jammed into the little cabin. Our grandfather would often cook hotcakes for breakfast on a huge cast iron griddle on the woodstove. One of the more unpleasant duties was getting up on a chilly morning in early spring to light the kitchen stove.

During those summers in the mid-fifties and early sixties, our days were filled with a wonderful variety of activities: swimming and boating, horseback riding, building sandcastles on the beach, tramping through the swamp, and making countless trips to the store for penny candy. Mary's Coffee Bar was the closest store to our cabin. Mary's had a lunch counter with stools, coke in small 6 ounce bottles, and a juke box which played Pat Boone or Ricky Nelson - five plays for a quarter.

One day in the summer on 1955, my grandfather found a derelict tin rowboat in the bush near the beach about a half mile from the cabin. There were several holes in the old thing but he made it seaworthy by stuffing the leaks with tar and rags. He even made a pair of serviceable wooden paddles for it. We kids used that old boat for many summers, paddling up and down the lakeshore.

Although we had electricity in the cabin, we relied on an ice box for refrigeration. Ott Woellner cut ice from the lake every winter and packed it in sawdust in a shed across the highway from his store. I remember him delivering the ice to our cabin - wrestling the heavy blocks off the back of his old pick-up and struggling into the cabin with the blocks gripped firmly in a pair of ice tongs. Ott invariably dripped water and sawdust all over the kitchen floor. With his labour completed, he would regale us with stories. When the lake level was dropping at an alarming rate, Ott would tell us that "the ladies have been asked to wring out their bathing suits in the lake before leaving the beach!"

In 1972, my father bought the second cabin, "Paddle Inn", # 41 Lakeview Avenue, from George Sinclair of Red Deer. We renamed the cabin "Lochnaw" after a family home in Scotland. I don't know when the cottage was built, but I believe it was sometime in the 1920's. An army officer from Calgary, Major Firmstone, owned the cabin in the 1940's but other owners are unknown until Mr. Sinclair bought the place in the mid-1960's.

Originally the cabin had a porch on three sides which was screened-in. Over the years, however, like many other cabins of the period, windows were installed and extra rooms built to meet the needs of expanding families and rising fuel costs.

For over 30 years, the Agnew family has been spending summers at the lake. My wife, Peggy, and I hope that our children, Jamie and Sarah, will continue to spend many happy hours at the cottage, and will grow up to love Gull Lake as much as we have.

"GULL LAKE"
#49 Lakeview Avenue

By Sinclair Reikie

My first recollection of Gull Lake, Alberta was as a five year old when my parents, living in Fort Macleod at the time, made their first visit to this vacation spot. I recall the long drive (Dad had a Chevrolet touring car at the time) and our stay for a week in what was known as "The Kitchen Cottage". I believe it was close to Fernie's store and the hotel that stood on the triangle of land nearby. As a child, I was impressed by the windmill which pumped water by the store. The incident of this time I recall best was Dad and Mother one afternoon driving around the McLauren's beach. On arriving at the intersection of the road which leads into the camp, we came upon Dr. McLauren whom my father knew. The reverend gentleman was planting the young trees which today have become the large avenue of trees which leads into the campsite.

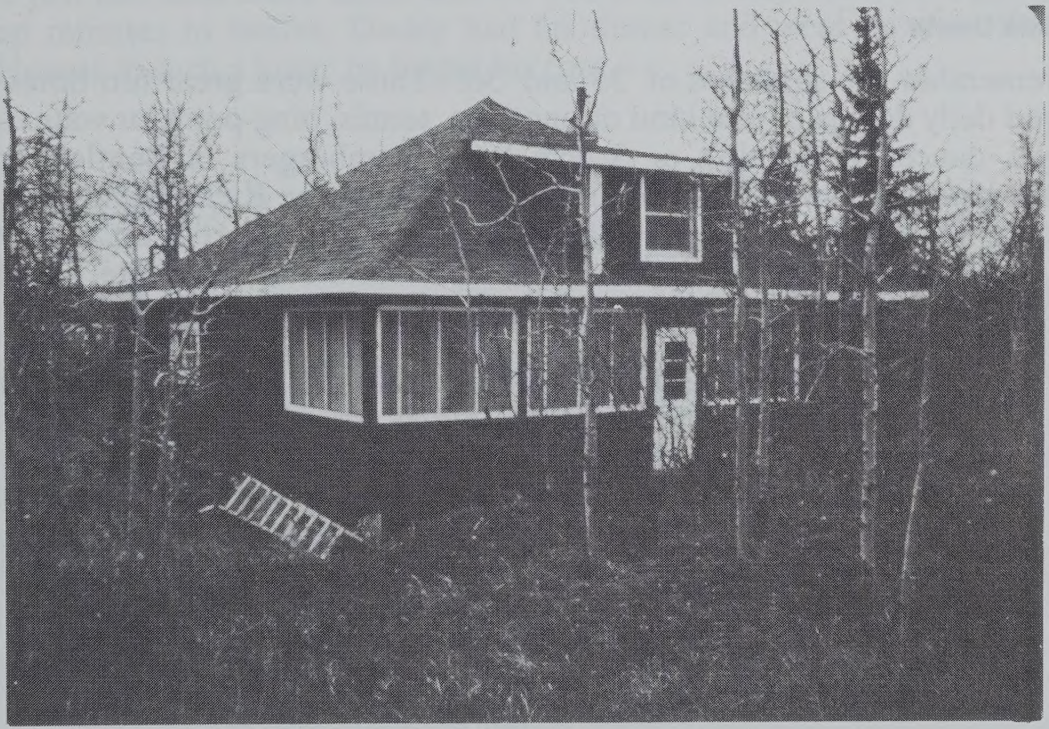
Our family returned in 1924 when we spent a month at the lake renting the cottage known as "Knoll View". The lake beach that summer had numerous lagoons which provided a marvelous playground for games of tag in and out of the shallow pools of water.

We returned to the Lake for July and August in 1927, travelling by automobile from Lethbridge. It was a horrendous trip, as it rained most of the distance, and Alberta had just started its program of graveling the highways. As we plowed through the mud, Dad would say, "When we get to Nanton we will be on the gravel until we reach Airdrie." Sure enough, at Nanton we came upon highway which was covered with stones and rock (it was uncrushed then) and the miles flew by. We thought it was heavenly! At Airdrie we were into the mud again. It took three days to make that trip! The next year when the gravelling of the road had been completed by the Province, we did the distance in one day. We could scarcely believe it was possible.

1954 - The Reikie Family Reunion, held at Gull Lake.

During the summer of 1927 we stayed in the cottage known as "Hardwick". That was the summer when the days were pleasant, but every night brought on a thunder storm. I have vivid memories of the twister that came from the north across the lake the evening of Friday, July 7th. The sky became a rolling black-purple mass before the wind struck. Then we were overwhelmed by high wind, hail and ear-shattering noise. It was terrifying! But it passed over and there was absolute calm. I recall everyone going out and wandering about observing the damage. A great many boats were smashed and some smaller buildings overturned. I was impressed by seeing a Packard car which had been in a garage. The garage had been picked up and dropped alongside the automobile rendering the garage into kindling, but the building in being lifted, had only scraped the rear left corner of the vehicle. Otherwise, the car was undamaged. We picked up hail the size of oranges. This storm system was the one that destroyed half the town of Vulcan the next day.

Dad purchased the O'Brien cottage, then known as "The Better 'Ole", in 1928 and we renamed it "Auld Reekie" - a Scottish name for Edinburgh, meaning "Old Smokey". I estimate the place was built about 1913, and had an open screened-in veranda on three sides around a central room. All beds were on the veranda, protected from the weather by canvas curtains which could be pulled back during the day. On windy nights the flapping of canvas was quite noisy. A big plus, as I saw it, was a "Sponson" canoe that came with the cottage, also an Evinrude outboard motor. This motor must have been one of the first models put on the market. It was a one cylinder two-stroke with a "hot-shot" ignition system - a real antique by today's standards. However, being the first internal combustion machine on which I had a chance to work, I thought it was great and learned my basic auto mechanics on it.



"Auld Reikie"

Summers in the late twenties were great at the Lake. Young People very quickly formed into groups or "gangs" and were together every day, swimming, boating, sailing, playing tennis at Sandy's court, or playing cards on rainy days. The level of the lake was high until it started dropping rapidly about 1930. There were many streams which ran into the Lake, one of which was known as "Sucker Ditch", a bit beyond the east end of Aspen Beach. Fishing was good there and the group to which I belonged spent many an evening catching jack fish. At the time, it was possible to take a boat up this stream for a considerable distance. All these waterways have long since dried up with the development of agriculture about the Lake.

One early morning, three of us set off by boat to go around the lake for the day. Half way down the west side we pulled into shore for breakfast. We were surprised to find the shore was covered with tons of petrified wood, some had dropped to the point where the rock was exposed. I later learned that this soon disappeared as people discovered it and used it in the construction of fireplaces, etc.

My brother, Bob, bought the Dalgleish cottage on the wide of the Reikie property and he and his family used it each summer. My father turned "Auld Reekie" over to me in 1965. The cottage has been upgraded in a number of ways and is used by members of the family not only during the summer, but at other times of the year as well.

"AULD REEKIE" #2

By Alice Reikie Dewis

Well do I remember the summers of '35 and '36! Those were great fun times - when "the gang" enjoyed daily doings of one kind or another: tennis, ping-pong, or water skiing at Bill McGillivray's, dances at Fernie's or Sylvan Lake, hamburgers in Bentley, bonfires with singing on the beach and indoor games in rainy weather at the Richardson's, the Archibald's or the Reikie's. "The Bug" with six or eight bodies aboard, would roar up and down the back road from McGillivray's to the Archibald's with several stops enroute. Ted Willis was generally at the wheel.

Earlier years included tennis at "Sandy's" (Mr. Sandbrooks's), super Regattas at the pier and shopping at Ott's and Fernie's, prior to the "Cottage Store" run by the Jenkins. Family friends of that era were the B. W. Millers of Edmonton, the Hay girls of Lacombe, McKay girls of Botha, the McCalla boys and Nelsons of Calgary.

Never to be forgotten were the severe wind, lightning and thunder storms of 1927 and '28 when our family rented the cottages of "Hardwick" and "Knoll View" before our purchase of "The Better 'Ole" - later called "Auld Reekie".

Aspen Beach will remain a highlight of my childhood years.

LETTER TO A FRIEND WRITTEN BY ALICE REIKIE AT AGE 10

Aspen Beach, July 10, 1927

Dear Nan,

Just a few lines to tell you about our trip. I know I am a bit late in writing to you but I had so many letters to write.

We left Lethbridge on Saturday. We kept travelling and near Nobleford the roads were terrible. There were holes a foot deep. At Nobleford we put our chains on. We were going to go further but the roads were too bad. We had to turn back and go back to Monarch. We got to Monarch five minutes before the train got there. We unpacked the car and Daddy got a man to keep the car. We got on the train and went to Macleod. A man told Daddy that the roads were good now because the sun was out.

We got off the train and Daddy went on the other train going to Monarch. He brought the car back and we went off again in the car. We kept on going till we came to Claresholm. We slept at Claresholm for the night. The next day we came to Nanton. From Nanton to Calgary it is 65 miles and all that is gravelled. We kept on going till we got to Calgary. We went to the next town, Carstairs, and slept there. We all got up at half past four the next morning. We passed many towns and then we came to Lacombe.

Hurrah! We just had nine more miles and we would be at Gull Lake. We got to Gull Lake about fifteen minutes to twelve. Daddy had his dinner and went away to the east to see Grandma. He was in such a hurry he forgot his coat.

Love to all

Your friend, Alice Reikie.

1935 - Bob Archibald (Archie), Bill McGillivray, Doris Reikie, Bob Reikie, Ted Willis, Alice Reikie, Joan Archibald, and Ruth Reikie.

"BOB INN"
#51 Lakeview Avenue

By Bob Reikie

Visits to Gull Lake by the K.W. Reikie clan started with occasional weekends shortly after World War I, soon extended to a few longer holidays. In 1927, the family spent two months every summer at the lake.

I remember 1927 as it was the year of the tornado. There were torn up trees, huge hail stones, blown over sheds, and dozens of backhouses to be put back in place.

1927 to 1938 were the grade school holiday years. The important names to me included - Sandbrook, Fernie, Mr. Elliot (who got us started on years of wonderful fishing), Hug, Ott (and brother Gabe), Thorpe (Bentley Meat & Bakery), Jenkins (then and now), Lorimer, and finally, Dolly. This does not even start on all the Summer Village people who were our friends - let's just say Calgary, Edmonton, Lacombe, Stettler and Camrose, and we know that is not all.

Activities surrounded things like the beach, bonfires and "kick-the-can." Row boats, sail boats, canoes and regattas, carried on to (finally) dances and girls.

The gap came through the war years ('30 to '45) then increasing interest in Gull Lake as the next generation began appearing.

Lois and I married in 1947, and used "Auld Reekie", the family cottage, whenever we could get it.

In 1953, we bought the old Dalgleish cabin. It was built in 1913 by the Dalgleish family from Claresholm. It is a true 75th Anniversary cabin. Even with all its extras now, it is still very much a "summer only" cottage.

Bob and Lois' children had all managed a summer at Gull Lake by the age of six months - and they still come back. Swimming classes, water ski club, more sailing perhaps and certainly not less action than their parents (I'm guessing).

There is a third generation Reikie cabin now since Rod bought the Bus McCalla (Hay) cottage in 1985.

We all hope to be around Gull Lake for a long while yet.

Ott: *"When the crows fly over Scotland, they have to carry their own lunch."*

1976 - Don Reikie, Greg Lemay, and Doug Nesselbeck working on the beach.

1976 - The R. D. Reikie Family

"PIONEER COTTAGE" and "HAPPY HUT"
#61 Lakeview Avenue

By Marion Meston

I thought I'd tell you of my affiliation with Gull Lake. So many memories come flooding in - it is hard to separate the decades in one's mind. My parents, Mr. & Mrs. John A. MacKay bought the "Pioneer" cottage in 1921. It was believed to be the first cottage built at the Lake. I believe they owned three lots, - in other words, their property extended up to the Village Hall. At that time and throughout my years as a child, there was the boathouse (where the hall is now), Sandy's store - or rather a candy counter as I remember it, and the tennis courts. Sandy was a real character - looked like a country gentleman out of a British novel - shuffling around in his white socks and running shoes! I think he rented boats but I am not sure. He had a generator and we would fall asleep at night hearing it throbbing away (or whatever generators do). The pier was out in front of course - what a great gathering place that was. We had swimming lessons and canoeing and diving. And no doubt you've had lots of comments about the regattas. Exciting days!

We spent every summer at the lake until I was 16 - three sisters and our mother. Fathers arrived on weekends up and down the beach - and there were lots of bonfires and singing - and swimming parties and shivering around the bonfire in those old wool bathing suits! I don't remember any drinking, but we all "smoked" the dried reeds - punkweed, we called it. My mother baked cookies and tarts and her special scones and we children sold these to the cottagers - taking orders for following days. None of us liked doing it but we did get to know people - and my oldest sister was able to go to Normal School (teacher training) in 1931 from the proceeds. These goodies were produced with no electricity to supply beaters or lights and cooked in a wood burning stove.

The David Hay family from Lacombe were our immediate neighbours. They also had four girls and we were great friends over the years as we grew up. Fernie's Store and Post Office - or was it just the Post Office - I don't remember much about a store. But we would sneak down to watch the dancers on Saturday night. The awnings would be up all around the sides so we had a ringside view. There were paper lanterns and streamers decorating the hall and of course live music. Then we went to Sunday school the next morning in the same hall - lanterns and all! Good old Fernies.

I must mention the station - and the excitement of the train. We would put pins crossed together on the tracks and they would be squashed by the wheels and look like miniature scissors! Pig loading day was cause for lots of kids to hang around the loading dock. We gave them a royal send-off!

In 1952 we bought the cottage called "Pye Plant" - I remember there were two sisters who lived in it when I was a child - from Victoria, I think. Anyway, it became the "Happy Hut" to us - Tom Lorimer's cottage was next door (west) but was a rental unit even then. Tom was a great guy - we thought so anyway. The old MacKay cottage, "Pioneer", was long since gone. Mother had to let it go for back taxes in about 1944, I think. Seems strange to us now, but none of us could afford the few hundred dollars to save it.

Note from Jessie Hay Short. (Jack McKinley bought the cottage in the early fifties and then sold it to Mr. Gustafson who built a garage on the property. Eventually he went broke, the garage was torn down and Pat McDonald bought it. He tore down the old cottage and built a new one which he eventually sold to Mr. L. Suitner of Mirror.)

Anyway, our family - five children and many nieces and nephews have enjoyed the lake over the years. Unfortunately none of our children live in Alberta so the traditional summers "at the lake" are gone for the next generation. But we have family reunions now and then and young friends use it much more than we do. Any suggestion of selling "Happy Hut" is like waving a red flag in front of our children!

As we arrived from Stettler (which was an all day drive in those days) we would stop at Hugs to get milk, then at Ott's to order a load of wood. I remember when Dolly started to work for Mr. Lorimer. Of course, I remember all the Jenkins - what a character Mr. Jenkins was! Dolly was very much a part of all our children's years at the lake.

Happy days on Gull Lake.

ANDY GILMOUR

#79 Lakeview Avenue

As Told to Gordon Connell

Andy has been going to Gull Lake off and on all his life. Gilmour's cottage was an old grainary with porches built on the front and back. As the family grew, Andy's dad built bedrooms on the west side. The inside of the cottage was quite rugged. Pictures from magazines were tacked onto the walls. Andy's mother used to collect drawings by Norman Rockwell. These were part of the pictures on the walls. The kitchen was on the southeast corner of the cottage. Andy's mother had a window put in the kitchen so she could watch the children playing. The water was within 40 feet of the cottage when it was built.

Foxes used to live under Gilmour's cottage. Dolly also had trouble with foxes because they killed a bunch of her chickens. The wildlife people trapped the foxes and took them away.

There used to be a number of activities at the lake including building sandcastles, and holding regattas. Mary and Don Moore of Lacombe were next door neighbors. They had a light tippy canoe, but it was very fast so it was used for races. Gilmours had a heavier canoe which was used in a contest where the contestants stood up in the canoes and attempted to push the others over with a pole which was padded at the end.

Andy knew Mr. Sandbrook who used to run the Lake View Hotel. Mr. Sandbrook always wore a white suit and looked like Colonel Saunders. He had a big hall which had an ice cream parlour in it with old wrought iron tables and chairs. There was a game similar to hockey which cost 5 cents to play. Ice cream also cost 5 cents. He also had a tennis court which was booked up solidly.

Sunday dinner was served at the Thistle Inn on tables covered with white tablecloths.

Andy's dad had a Model A Ford. It took one half hour to go from Gull Lake to Lacombe. When they got to the hill where the slough was, just west of the Lacombe Golf Course, they could not get the car up the hill going forward, so they turned it around and went up in reverse.

There used to be a huge spruce tree in the middle of the road near the Spruceville Hall and when you went to Gull Lake you went by it on one side and returned on the other. It was a landmark for years, before they cut it down.

In the early 1900's there were more stores in Lacombe than there are now and at that time Lacombe was larger than Red Deer.

"SHIRLO COTTAGE"
#97 Lakeview Avenue

Four generations gather at "Shirlo Cottage". Pictured here (left to right) are Shirley and Les Warden, who now own the cottage. Harold and Irene Wilson, Shirley's parents who owned the cottage for almost fifty years; and Donna Friesen and Skye, Shirley's daughter and grand-daughter.

Ott: *"Do you know why there is not a single mosquito at the lake?"*

"No."

Ott: *"They're all married and raising families."*

"TIPPICANOE"
#105 Lakeview Avenue

By Anthony Sheppard

The Sheppard cottage was built in 1906. The following is an excerpt from the diary of Mr. W.H. Sheppard:

"July 12, 1906 - Start for Gull Lake. Train does not leave until 13:00 hours due to wreck of freight. Arrived at Gull Lake at 21:00 hours and had tent up and children in bed 22:00 hours."

"July 13, 1906 - A lovely morning. Building house - 12 to 16 people here. Call it "building a house while you wait." Children are enjoying the bathing. This is a fine place for youngsters. There are a number of people here, some from Edmonton, but more from Lacombe."

"July 14, 1906 - Fixing up about shack and grounds. In fairly good shape for a month's stay. Bay covered with bathers and boats. Harry Brownlow ran over with a little steam lauch. She is the one that Frick brought from Saskatchewan. What is known as Saratoga Beach is not considered to be an ideal place for children, water deep and banks very abrupt."

The Sheppard cottage remained in its natural state for approximately 45 years. During this time, guests and visitors would carve their initials into the unfinished outer wall, showing their date of stay, etc. In various places people also wrote comments concerning their period of stay.

The Sheppard Boathouse was built over the water to permit launching directly into the lake. The following excerpt from Mr. Sheppard's diary mentions the building of the boathouse:

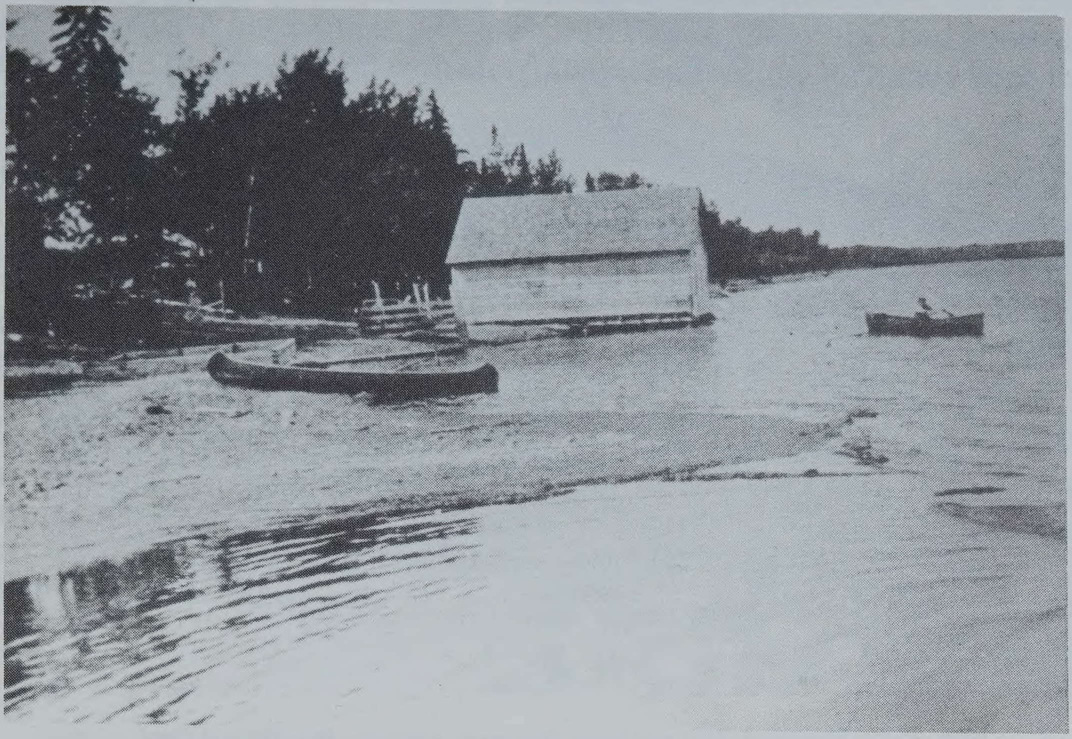
"August 19, 1911 - Clear and warm - drove from Lacombe to camped at Gull Lake with Fortune Team - arrived at 22:15 - roads bad."

"August 21, 1911 - Building Boathouse."

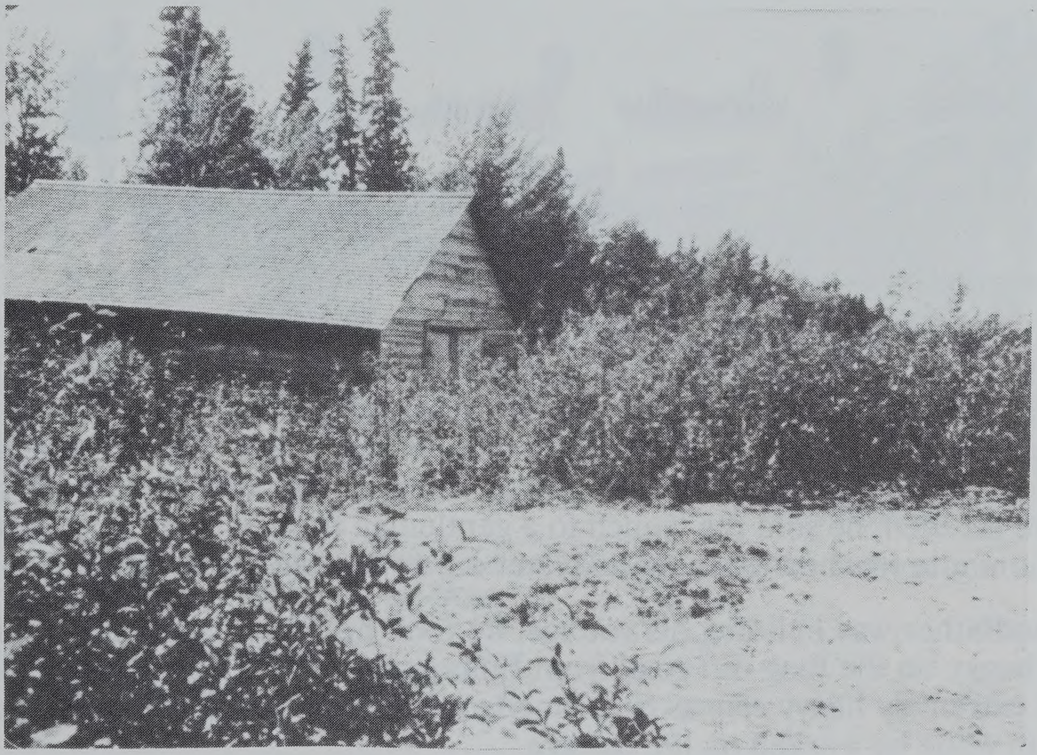
"August 24, 1911 - Cloudy, light showers, working at finishing boathouse and getting sailboat in."

The Sheppard motor launch which had seating for 20 people initially could be floated directly into the boathouse. In subsequent years, as the lake receded, it was necessary to install rollers to get the launch into the water. As the water continued to recede, it was necessary to use teams of horses to drag the boat to the water. Finally, in 1936, floating the boat became too great a chore and the launch which initially cost in excess of $2,000.00 was sold for $150.00.

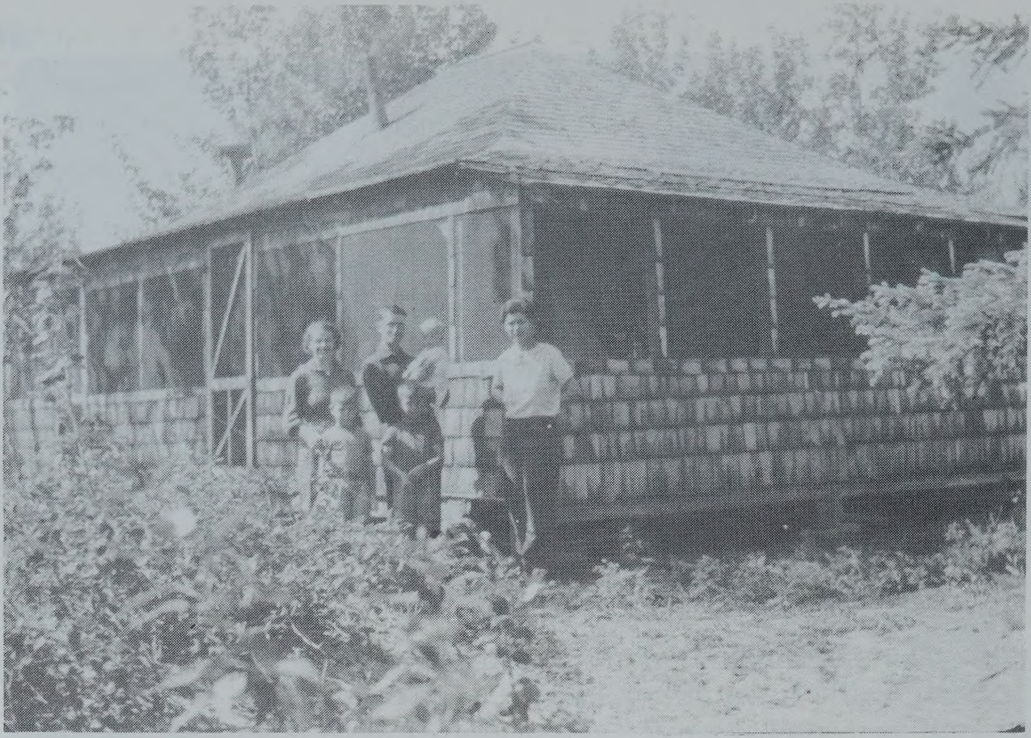
In the early years at Gull Lake, the family would paddle a canoe out from shore and dip a pail into the pristine waters of the lake to obtain drinking water. Often times the canoe would tip during this transaction which led to the cottage being named "Tippecanoe".



1913 - The Sheppard Boathouse at the water's edge.



1943 - Sheppard Boathouse - high and dry.



1934 - Vivian Sheppard, Tom and Daisy Sheppard, and sons, Roy, Bill and Gary.

"TIPPECANOE" #2

#105 Lakeview Avenue

By Marion Oldrey Ballentine

My grandfather, Mr. W. H. Sheppard (1863-1944) of Edmonton, and Mr. George Wallace of Wetaskiwin, built two cottages beside each other in 1906. They also built a very large boathouse which the two men shared for the storage of their boats. The cottages were built close to the lake in those early years and when they wanted to take out my grandfather's 22 foot motor launch, they just opened the large doors on the front and slipped the launch out. When the lake receded, he sold the launch to a gentleman from Sylvan Lake. Grandpa also owned two aluminum row boats, canoes and later on, a red wooden motorboat.

When my grandfather was building his cottage, he took his wife, Annie, and their children by horse and buggy on the long dirt road from Edmonton to Gull Lake. He made two very large tents of extremely heavy canvas over wooden frames and with a wooden floor for his family to live in while he worked on the cottage.

My grandmother did all of her cooking in the oven on a woodstove. She also boiled water from the lake to wash her clothes, using a scrub board. They also had good sized holes dug in the ground and lined with tin, with sturdy wooden lids in which they kept their food cool. Later on they used a wooden ice box.

I am sure they had many hardships to face before the cottage was completed, but they all loved Gull Lake and as the years rolled by, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren and their families have all enjoyed this wonderful place.

Today, these two cottages are still standing but the boathouse was torn down many years ago. It was a well known landmark in its time.

My mother, Mrs. Tillie Sheppard Oldrey, (1893-1985) purchased "Briarose" cottage (111 Lakeview Avenue) from Mrs. Gladden of Calgary in the 1950's. In 1980, Mother turned the cottage over to my sister, Mrs. Daphne Dean of Edmonton. My sister passed away in 1986, but the cottage is being used by her husband and her children. So Gull Lake continues on and on with the same families.

1936 - Daphne Oldrey, Norman Trouth, Mr. W.H. Sheppard, Mr. George Oldrey, Mr. Ralph Trouth, and Marion Oldrey.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS
#107 Lakeview Avenue

By Ted and Audrey Mohr

Our cottage has a bit of interesting history behind it. This building was originally the clubhouse at the Lacombe Golf Course. My father, Mr. Wm. Fay Johnston, who was the Mayor of Ponoka at the time, purchased the building for the grand sum of $200.00 and had it moved from Lacombe to its present site during the summer of 1955.

1983 - Fireplace at Gull Lake.

The fieldstone fireplace was built for us by a stone mason from Bentley. The floor is a "holy" floor, as it is made of hardwood salvaged from a United Church in Red Deer which had burned down; but that has never stopped us from having a "devil" of a good time over the past thirty-three years in our little cottage.

During the 1950's we had service-to-the-door with deliveries of milk and cream from the Lacombe dairy, bread and pastries from the Lacombe bakery, chickens all cleaned and ready to cook and vegetables from the local farmers, as well as ice delivered by Ott with his great, but corny jokes.

You could buy the very best pies in Central Alberta at Mary's Bakery. It was great fun to check at the Post Office in Dolly's store to see if anyone had written you a letter. Who could forget the great double-header ice cream cones for a nickel at Mitchell's?

Ott:	*"Do you know the difference between a male and a female onion?"*
	No.
Ott:	*"You don't know your onions."*

"SPRUCE UP LODGE"
#109 Lakeview Avenue

By Shirley Williams Grace

1915 - "Spruce Up Lodge", one of the early cottages.

The year was 1895, and from Ontario George Duncan Wallace, my grandfather, arrived in the little town of Wetaskiwin, N.W.T.

He built his pioneer hardware store on what was to become the main street. In 1900, Martha Hunter, my grandmother, arrived from Toronto to embark on her teaching career. They were married in 1902.

In 1908 George Wallace with the help of Mr. W.H. Sheppard built "Spruce Up Lodge." It was the fifth or sixth cottage built at the Lake. The cottage originally consisted of one large room and gradually the other rooms were added. Later a veranda was built across the front and down one side. It was screened in and had large shutters. Everytime a storm came across the lake there was a rush to pull the heavy shutters down. The high peaked ceiling in the living room was decorated with beautiful parasols, some of which were won by my mother Dora Wallace Williams and her sister Helen Wallace Jahren at the annual regattas.

There were swim meets, canoe, sail and rowboat races. Viv Sheppard Rogers and Mother won the canoe race one year.

In 1911, a boathouse was built by George Wallace and Mr. Sheppard on the jointly owned lot between the two cottages. It was a large boathouse and was built over the water to permit launching directly into the lake. For many years it was an important landmark.

The early cottagers came to the lake by horse and buggy from Lacombe. My grandparents took the train from Wetaskiwin to Lacombe until grandfather bought his car, which was one of the first in Wetaskiwin. I recall asking my grandmother why they didn't build at Pigeon Lake as it was so much closer to Wetaskiwin. She replied that she thought Gull Lake was more exclusive.

Mr. Jenkins delivered ice and wood to the cottagers. Local farmers brought home baking and vegetables to the door. The local general stores were Ott's, Lorimer's, (later to become Dolly's), and Broadway which was run by the Mitchells. Gunns Candy Store was located across from Ott's. They made the most delicious fudge.

The first hotel was built where the community building now stands. Church services were held on Sundays. There was a grass tennis court in front of the hotel. Local dances were held on Wednesday and Saturday nights. This hotel burnt down.

The next hotel was built just east of Ott's. It had a screened-in veranda. My mother, Dora Wallace Williams, told me of going to dances on the roof. For many years there was a long public pier in front of the hotel. A high slide was built next to it.

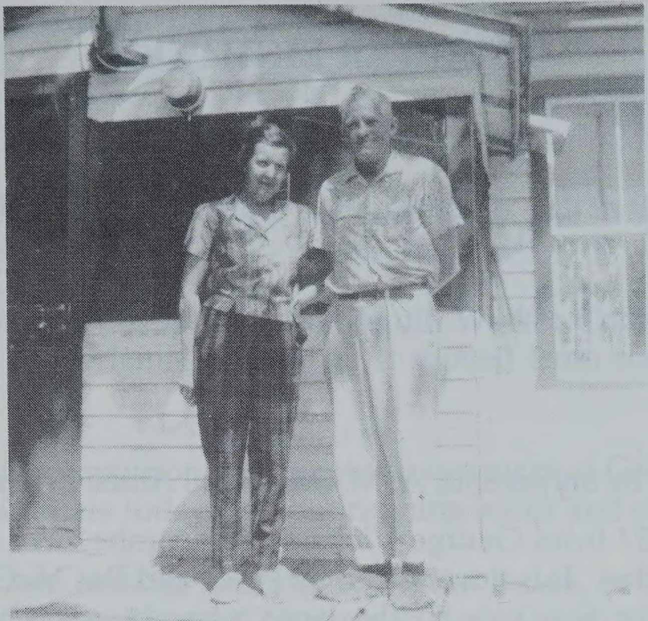
My mother and her sister spent every summer at Gull. My brothers and sister and I did the same. We took the train from Edmonton to Lacombe, then caught the Peanut train from Lacombe. Mother packed all our clothes, bedding and staples etc., to last for two months. We felt very fortunate to be able to spend the whole summer at Gull, while our friends had to stay in the hot city.

The Gull Lake station had a holding area for livestock and on Mondays it was used for pigs. Each Monday, early in the morning, all six of us rushed down to the station to watch the farmers unload and weigh their pigs. What excitement for city kids. We would try to guess the weight of each pig. This would go on all day and at suppertime we would finally tear ourselves away and go home for supper. As soon as we heard the train whistle we would jump up from the table and run to the station to watch the pigs being loaded.

Mr. Brewer lived at the west end of Aspen Beach. He was a friendly old man and if you could milk his goats he would give you a chocalate bar from his store.

Each summer we would gather wood until we had enough for a huge bonfire. We would invite neighbours and friends to enjoy the fire and sing-a-long.

One summer my cousin, Arline Williams Dagg, Helen Clark Hume, Marjorie Clark Campbell and myself decided to try and clean up the old community hall so we could have a dance. It hadn't been used recently and was a real mess. What fun we had when it was finally ready for use.



1964 - Dora Wallace Williams and Theo Williams.

"Spruce Up Lodge" is now being used by the third, fourth and fifth generation of the Wallace-Williams family. They are Ron Williams and family, Ted Williams and family, Dennis and Fay Williams, Diane Auld and family, Judy Boucher and family. My husband Don and I bought Woodland cottage which was owned by Mr. A. Fraser in 1969.

In September 1980, the Williams family had a reunion in the old community hall. About fifty people attended and we had a great time. We were happy that we had the foresight to have the reunion as my mother, Dora Wallace Williams died suddenly in October and that was the end of her 72 summers at Gull Lake.

1980 - (Back row) Ted Williams, Shirley Grace and Ron Williams,(front row) Judy Boucher, Diane Auld and Dennis Williams at family reunion in Gull Lake Hall.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

PREMIER AVENUE

"TRAIL'S END"
#3 Premier Avenue

By Isobel Frizzell Ramsay

Our cottage was owned by my parents, A. M. (Mac) and Annie Frizzell.

They purchased it in 1937 from George Vickers of Lacombe. We sold it in the early 1950's to Dr. Galbraith of Stettler. It is now owned by Peter and Pat McGregor of Red Deer. The cottage was too small for five kids so the large veranda was glassed in to provide extra bedrooms. Mr. Woolgar, from Bentley, built us a stone fireplace and a stone bench for our front.

Without electricity or gas, we depended on an ice box, woodstove and kerosene lamps for our more basic needs. Water was drawn from a nearby well and carried to the cottage in buckets.

It was a short drive from our home in Lacombe on gravel roads. We cleaned the cottage in the spring and moved in the end of June. We stayed the full two months but went home weekly to do the wash and chores around the house.

Our cottage was always filled with people and Mother spent most of her time cooking on the old stove and making mounds of sandwiches.

Our entertainment was simple. We took long walks down the back lane, played cards, did jigsaw puzzles and had several bonfires each summer. These were real group efforts with several families gathering wood over many days in preparation for the feast of hot dogs and marshmallows, topped off with the traditional campfire songs.

We spent endless hours swimming and loved to go out in a storm with the waves crashing over us. However, this unnerved Mother who soon stopped coming to the beach when the waves were high as she was usually one short during head count.

As a special treat, my brother, Don, rode our pony to the lake and kept him there one summer. She proved quite an attraction with the kids and I suspect earning Don a few cents.

Dad was Postmaster in Lacombe and came out Wednesday afternoon and weekends. We often walked for miles to meet him on the Gull Lake road and would "thumb" a ride as he approached. Occasionally, he "wouldn't see us" but always backed up to rescue the group.

Although ours was not an all season cabin, we also enjoyed winter day trips to the lake to skate and later have a hot meal in the cabin.

We cherish our memories of friends and times spent at Gull Lake.

GULL LAKE REVISITED (Memories are Forever)
#9 Premier Avenue

By Louise Watts Brown

Is there more than one Gull Lake? Indeed, but only one is rich in the memories I share with you.

My parents, Lucy and Ernie Watts, purchased the old Walker Cottage in the mid-forties. It was a modest structure; the original portion of it moved from town after the turn of the century.

At that time, we resided in Edmonton and spent the summers at Gull Lake. (I often wonder if I could endure those summers today, without running water and electricity!)

As a youngster, I remember making sandcastles on the beach, swimming, (always with the buddy system so enforced in us all) and hiking across the railroad tracks with a peanut butter and honey sandwich in tow. Dad had fashioned a rather sturdy swing for my sister, Peg, and me. How I shudder when I remember how fearlessly I used it. On rainy days, we read comic books, played cards and generally drove our parents into a harried state if too many rainy days were strung together. On one occasion, Peg gathered the bits and pieces of all the left over paint. She proceeded to paint one wall making each board a different colour. Standing back reviewing the work, she decided that it needed a little something more. There was only one colour left, white. After a little thought, she decided to put her hands into paint and place it upon the wall in various places. Hence, a rainy day produced an extremely creative piece. Rain or shine, we enjoyed watching the loading of the pigs. After dinner we would play "Kick the Can" and its sequel "Ignore the Call Home". On special occasions and celebrations we had bonfires with hot dogs and marshmallows. Did we have potato chips then?

Through Lorimers, and then Dolly's General Store, we had our link with the outside world - the Post Office and the telephone. Not to mention a crossroads where the socialization process was most evident. I learned how "to charge" at Mrs. Mitchell's store, starting with ice cream cones after dinner. Funny, Mrs. Mitchell always knew what was allowed; she was kind yet firm with her "No".

Faithfully, Ted Jenkins delivered ice and wood to us. During the war years, Ted changed countless tires and repaired broken windows. On one such occasion, he delivered quite a lecture on discipline while repairing the window. I smile as I recollect one of Ted's trucks. Was it an approaching thunder storm or Ted's truck?

Somewhere along the line, electricity was available to us and we could burn toast with one light on. Anything involving much more power and we were once again without electricity.

Progress, changing times, cottage improvements, kids growing up and this one venturing out and meeting new friends "down the lane". Most of them were from Calgary - a new territory for an Edmontonian.

In 1952, the Watt family moved to Arizona, but faithfully returned to Gull Lake every summer. Friends and many memories drew us back. Oddly, the cottage had remained nameless. Years passed, further improvements on the cottage and finally, it was named. From the influence of the new American residence," La Casa Vieja" (the old house) was born.

"La Casa Vieja" gave three generations great memories. The old house at Gull Lake has been sold. Possessions pass from one to another; memories are forever.

WE REMEMBER
# 11 Premier Avenue

By Tish Soley

My grandparents, Edna and Cecil Sutherland, rented cottages around Aspen Beach and by Barlow's landing before looking for a place to purchase. Gran says they looked at many spots but the wide open view, and the fact that she could sit and watch the children playing in the water from the verandah, decided her in a minute, and "Ballingan" became the common family root in 1917. (The wide open view now, of course, is the pine trees.) The name Ballingan was taken from her family's home on the Isle of Man from whence the Grindley clan made their way to Canada before she was born in 1889. (As a brief note, my Gran will be 99 years old on the 75th Anniversary. She has spent some time every summer of her life since 1917, at the cottage. That is 71 summers!

1985 - Mrs. Cecil Sutherland

During that period of time, she has seen many changes. Man has progressed from horse-and-buggy to space travel. There was no television, no radio, no rock 'n' roll, very little crime and ladies wore long skirts. What a good time they had! My Granny loved the Lake, as I do. She looked forward to being there in the spring and hated to leave in the fall. She spoke of whist and bridge parties and making paper costumes for dances at the Flatiron Hotel. Nearly everyone had a canoe in those days and during the 1920's and '30's, the Gull Lake Aquatic Club held a yearly regatta at the Government Pier below the Community Hall.

Gran talks of picnics, bonfires and cricket games...of births and deaths, marriages and berry pies, and all the things that mesh perfectly with my own remembered summers. Of course, Bunty Sutherland Soley, my mother and all the family share them too. It is a little mystical to consider the shared memories of generations running through our minds as our shared blood runs through our bodies.

My mom laughs now when she talks about coming to the Lake in the Hudson Touring car. An all-day expedition from Edmonton complete with box lunch! There were canvas curtains to roll down if it rained. She remembers going "up the Old Bentley Road" after the rain to collect shaggy manes in old grape baskets with Mary and Syd...and the four big pans of the woodstove that transformed them into a feast of mushrooms, toast and Bovril. Another big treat she says, were the honeycombs that Grandad brought home whole from the 7th Day Adventist farm.

Mom remembers Gran and Grandad playing bridge with Dr. & Mrs. Richardson (whose children are Tom and Catherine), wearing little woolen bathing suits that stayed warm even when wet. She remembers the excitement of getting electricity in the early '40's, and plumbing (glory!) in 1948 ... and all the occasions when neither one worked.

She remembers Gran breaking the ice May 24th weekend to go swimming and the strong patriotic feelings that came with the fireworks or the sight of "Old Glory" on the flagpole on King George V's birthday.

Immediately to the west of us was the Switzer's cottage, later owned by the squirrels, and then by Jack and Mary Petrie. Next to them was the Dr. Roxborough family with their children Gwen, Marge, Ted and Jean. Marge married Dr. John McGregor, of the University of Alberta, and their son Don, is a present member of the Hospitals Board of Alberta. Their cottage was sold to the Sauciers. The Judge Stuart family who were related to the Roxboroughs, came next before the Dr. Richardsons, whose son, Dr. Tom Richardson, and wife, Vera and daughter, Catherine Richardson Harradence and her husband, Judge Milt Harradence, still come to Gull Lake each summer with their families. Our closest neighbors to the east, with whom we shared a well, (which is still between the two houses, although the old pump is gone) were Colonel and Mrs. Graham Walker from Scotland. He was the son of Mr. Johnstone Walker, and some years after the Walkers returned to Scotland, the cottage was sold to Dr. Ernie Watts and his wife, Lucy and children for the earth-shaking sum of about $650.00.

Beside the Walker house were the McGillivrays, and two doors east of them was the F.E. McLeods, (now Jardines) whose children were Grace, Mary, Bob and Murray. Their generation played together as have all the others.

Further east were other families; the Vernon Barfords. He was the organist at All Saints Cathedral in Edmonton. His son Jack, married Grace Blatchford. (Blatchford Field in Edmonton, better known as the Municipal Airport, was named after her brother, Howie, a flying Ace in World War I.) Other famour aviators had summer homes at Gull Lake as well. Vic Horner, Grant McConnachie and Wop May all had cottages up by Fernie's store.

Mom remembers Great Gran Grindley coming to visit her when she was small. Great Gran, Granny, and her sister, Lilian Gowan spent many hours making bed tables, stools and bookcases by covering orange or banana crates with chintz or bits of wallpaper. Maids were often part of the household in the' 20's and '30's and Gran used to tell us about Bill McGillivray being wheeled to the beach in his pram by the maid in full cap and apron uniform.

Both Bill and Syd Sutherland spent hours on the water in their motorboats (two out of three on the lake), 40 hsp and 3 hsp motors respectively. They took part in all the regattas and once, Syd actually beat Bill when the McGillivray motor died in the middle of the race!

Mom remembers swimming to Walker's Point. The water was deep and clear then - in fact, it was measured in the late 20's with the use of an anchor rope to be about the 60' depth.

She remembers the Wrigley Swim in the early '30's with the start and finish at the Government Pier - her tremendous excitement at having Carmen McRae, one of the competitors, as a houseguest.

One of my favorite family photos is that of a blonde toddler on the beach, pail in hand, head slightly tilted in the sun, and overall cuffs on scuffed shoes - my mom. It could be me, or my kids - or you.

I remember my dad, Dick, wrapping me in a quilt and holding me on his lap as we watched an evening thunderstorm. The lightning and wind were fierce and a tree toppled across the verandah roof. Of course, I was invulnerable, safe and warm, with my Dad. In retrospect, I imagine he was pretty spooked.

My early memories of "growing up at the lake" are probably much like yours ... and their's... as the wide beach got wider and wider, as the water receded.

I remember being there in June with my grandparents. Every day my grandad and I went for walks. If there were berries, we picked some and often went to "Mary's Bakery" to pick up the pies that resulted from our picking.

I remember taking my brother and sister, Scott and Barb, every Wednesday morning to watch the pigs being loaded from the livestock chutes by Jenkins.

I remember running after the ice man's wagon and Ott saying always, "see ya in the funnies, kids." Thursday nights he ran the old movies on the old projector at the hall and although we saw them many times, 5 cents a kid, we always went again. Mom remembers also the thrill of being allowed to ride on the fenders of the big old touring cars used to deliver milk and ice or produce. The farm ladies came to the door with baskets of vegetables then at 5 cents for a bunch of carrots or onions.

1920's - The old touring car at the lake with Mary and Syd and friends.

I remember cribbage tournaments in front of the fire to determine who would do the dishes that night... squishing mud between toes after a rain... the road dappled with potholes, every so often rainbowed with a gasoline spill...making fragile necklaces with shells collected from the beach...the heat of the path burning the soles of my feet as I shade-hopped to the cottage...the surprising warmth of the waves on a stormy afternoon.

I remember clenching my teeth and hanging on tight for the first waterski ride, and watching the marshmallows flame and fall slowly off the stick into the fire; laying on the beach at night to watch for falling stars, and taking the old horse for a lazy meander around the east side past the remnants of the mill.

I remember solitary walks on the beach in all kinds of weather, night and day, and gangs of people partying on the beach...the spectacular Northern Lights...powerful thunderheads decorating the afternoon sky. I remember Rick Soley and Jim Jardine coming home from the Bentley bar on horseback, knowing they wouldn't be stopped for "impaired riding", and the respectable Fred Moriarty returning the empty beer glass that he carried out of that same bar.

I am grateful everytime I take a good deep breath of that swampy old smell, and realize that the same physical structures that I know, are now nurturing my children, Morgan and Bill, who exclaim with excitement when they identify the bright creatures that live in our woods, or the flash of an oriole or hummingbird past the windows...who get just as sticky roasting marshmallows...the paintbrush that colors between the lines are the adventures, the good times, and the friends who fill the summer days.

All the things I remember, I still look forward to each year, sharing with this long time summer community - a bond of time and knowledge, grief and triumph, delight, laughter and nostalgia. All out benevolent ghosts...in the air and the very walls that have seen and heard that, which we do not know of our people. The memories we are still creating and wistfully hope our descendents will have in another 75 years.

1987 - Morgan and Blake Soley, puddle jumping after the rain.

"OPEN ARMS"
#15 Premier Avenue

By Jan Colter

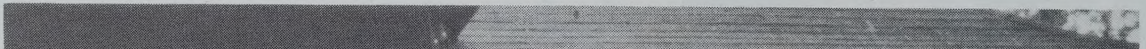
Jack Saucier was a frequent visitor to Gull Lake as a young man in the 1920's. After he married Lillian Dubois, around 1933, the young family became regular "lakers". With daughters Suzanne, Mary and Carol, they spent almost thirty summers in rented cabins at Gull Lake.

It wasn't until 1963, when Jack, Lillian, Sue, Mary and five or six kids were crammed in a tiny rented cabin for a rainy holiday, that Jack finally bought his own cottage. Mrs. Roxborough, a few doors down, was selling "Open Arms" and it had five bedrooms. He walked down, took a look around, and made an offer. Within days, the whole family moved in. The roof leaked, we had bats, but it was ours!

Over the years, the pump out back was converted to running water, supplying a real indoor bathroom. The teepee-style roof was lowered and a regular ceiling installed. One wall went out and a couple of new ones went up. The most important thing was that it became home. The ties Jack and Lillian made with friends were reinforced by their daughters friendships at the lake and by their children's children, the Colters, Dovers and Rays.

During the 1980's, Jack's great-grandchildren, Caitlin, (my daughter) and Layna and Danny (my brother's children), are beginning to make friends with their parents friends' kids. We're all very conscious of the fifty years and four generations of Gull Lake friends and memories, which are some of the oldest and best we have.

In August, 1987, my parents, Don and Sue (Saucier) Colter bought their own cottage, #13 Oliver Avenue. My aunts, Mary and Carol and their families, still holiday at "Open Arms".



1984 - The Colter family gather for Don's 60th birthday at "Open Arms".

"REST HAVEN"
# 21 Premier Avenue

By Catherine Richardson Harradence

1940 - Dr. J.W. Richardson, Catherine, Tom and Dolly Richardson.

My dad, Dr. J. Wilson Richardson, bought our cottage in 1928. Up until then, they had rented different cottages for about eight years. They told my brother and me that the water level was within 50 feet of the front of the cottages on Aspen Beach. They used to boat out over the reeds to get to clear swimming water. The fishing was excellent.

During my youth, my mother, brother and I spent all of July and August at the Lake. My dad would come as often as he could on weekends and maybe have a two week holiday during the summer.

I remember the milk deliveries by the Hug family and wood and ice from the Ott and Jenkins family. In later years, the Lacombe Creamery delivered milk, and one Lacombe meat market sold meat door to door. The local farmers sold fresh vegetables, fruit and baking door to door.

My mother entertained at tea many times. The names of some of her friends were Mrs. C.A. Stuart, (son Gerry was later the Mayor), Mrs. Roxborough from "Open Arms", Mrs. W. C. Robertson, Mrs. (Dr.) Lincoln (Jim Jardine's grandmother), Mrs. McLeod from Lacombe, (mother of Grace Johnston). (Harold Johnston owned Johnston's Variety Store in Lacombe.) Mrs. Cecil Sutherland who is still alive and in her nineties, was at the lake this past summer. Mrs. Stuart's cottage was the centre of many parties during her years at the lake. There were dances, masquerades, and many bridge parties. Her first grandchild, Sandra Stuart, was christened at the lake by her great uncle, Rev. Dr. Roxborough, who lived at "Open Arms" next door.

The Gull Lake Regatta was a yearly event, being held down by the Government Pier and water slide in front of the Village Hall. There were all kinds of races and sandcastle building, tennis, and I think, a type of lawn bowling on the sand.

The main store was Fernies, (later becoming Mary's Bakery). Fernies Store had the Post Office, the only telephone and all the groceries one might need. The Fernie boys also delivered wood. Mr. Fernie built many of the beautiful fireplaces in the homes along the beach. I mentioned before that Ott delivered wood and ice. He also had a General Store, now Holiday Inn. His store had everything, was always a mish-mash but he and his wife, Ann, could always come up with anything asked for. He even ordered a special tobacco every summer for my dad's pipe.

Tom Lorimer's Cottage Store, then Dolly's General Store, and now Pattons' Place, was also a general store. He took over the Post Office and phone when the Fernie family left. Broadway was the next store, now Rimrock. It was open only in the summer and sort of a clubhouse for our group when I was a teen-ager. Jack Halpen ran it for a few years and then Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell from Ponoka. Mrs. Mitchell was a kindly soul and put up with our crowd gathering there almost every night. That would have been during the forties. During those years, because of the War, there was little organized at the lake for entertainment, we had to make our own. Bonfires dotted the beach every weekend and there was an occasional dance at the Village Hall, usually a local farm family wedding dance. We made our fun playing games on the beach and in the water. There were very few boats and almost no sailboats as the lake was said to be too dangerous to sail on.

In the late 1950's, the first recreational director came on staff for the Village. Our children were treated to swimming lessons, water skiing club, (with mothers driving the boats), and then, as now, the overnight camp-out. Also, at that time, there were two horse rental outlets and that was a bonus to go on the occasional trail ride. In the 1970's when the Village started to pay more attention to the cultivating of the beach, our son, Rod Harradence, and Bob McGillivray were hired for three years from May 1 to September to do the maintenace work, including garbage pick up, beach work and any other duties, to free the Recreational Director to spend all of his or her time with the children. Our son, Bruce, and Doug Nesselback also worked on beach maintenance one year. Eventually, the Council hired permanent help on a yearly basis.

When the August long weekend came into being, Bill McGillivray, Harold Johnston, Bob Reikie and others started the annual Sun Fish Sailing Race under the auspices of the Gull Lake Brandy and Soda Yachting Assocation, always held on the first Sunday in August. Now as our children get older, the senior race is for over forty. The junior race is for anyone under forty and the last two or three years there is also a windsurfer race. This ends with trophies being given out at a sumptuous brunch in the McGillivray back yard. That same weekend was, for several years, the occasion of the Gull Lake versus Lacombe Golf Tournament which was held on Saturday. The evening wound up with a steak dinner and sing-song at the Lacombe Golf Club, open to golfers and non-golfers and was great fun bringing Lakers and Lacombe people together. I think Davy Jones and Garth Wagner hosted that occasion. In the last few years when interest dwindled in the Golf Tournament, Cathie Harradence, (Rod's wife), and a few of her friends instituted a Club Med Day for that Saturday - volleyball, sailing, baseball, windsurfing. Many pots of chili and salads are consumed after a day in the sun (not to exclude the cases of beer and pop.)

Ken Stuart, (Gerry Stuart's son) last year had his third annual Casa Kiaska Croquet Tournament. The course begins at his house, winds down towards the lake over many interesting road blocks, through the lake and back up to the cottage. From the laughter and friendly arguing over who is playing fair or not, I think it will continue to be an annual event. That also includes lots of good food and drink.

The annual barbeque and dance held on the day of the annual Village meeting, is always looked forward to by both old and young. It is always held outside the Village Hall and gives the Lakers an opportunity to meet old and new friends. Gerry Stuart started this when he was Mayor and he called the square dances, for he and his wife, Audrey, called and taught square dancing in Calgary for many years.

Of course, I mustn't miss the 'Happy Hours' held at the hall several times during the summer months, the weekly bingo games and the movies for the children almost weekly.

Some of the original families are now into the fourth and fifth generation. The cottages haven't changed owners very often, they are handed down in the family.

Bill and Kay McGillivray celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at their cottage on May 20, 1975. Many friends from Calgary, Edmonton and Lacombe attended. Bill also celebrated his 65th birthday and his son Bob's 30th (born on Dad's birthday) on October 14, 1983. Again friends from all over drove out and the dinner was held at Bob and Jean Fraser's.

Our son, Rod, had many birthday parties at the Lake, for his birthway was on May 22nd which often fell on the Victoria Day long weekend. He also hosted his own Gull Lake golf tournament held annually in September. He lost his life in a tragic plane crash in 1986 and now his sister, Cathy, and brother, Bruce, are trying to carry on this tradition.

1987 - Cathy Harradence and her nephew, Rod Harradence Jr., during his first trip to Gull Lake.

"Rest Haven" and Gull Lake have long been a most important time in each year of our lives. First our parents, Wilson and Dolly Richardson, then Tom and Vera Richardson, with their four children, Catherine and Milt Harradence, their three children, and now Wilson and Dolly's seven great grandchildren all enjoy the Lake.

1980 - A gathering of two families, Bruce, Milt, Cathy and Catherine Harradence with Vera, Tom, Linda and Barbara Richardson.

MY RECOLLECTIONS
#21 Premier Avenue

By Thomas A. Richardson

I was first brought to Gull Lake by my parents, Dr. & Mrs. J. Wilson Richardson, at the age of 10 months and have returned there for a while almost every summer with the exception of the war years. My mother usually stayed through July and August. My father visited on weekends and usually took a two-week vacation there each year.

In the earlier days the road from Calgary was a dirt road. We always came by car, initially in a Chevrolet Baby Grand touring car. Judge and Mrs. C.A. Stuart and family, one of the earliest regular summer visitors, initially came by horse and buggy. Because of the dirt roads, a trip to the Lake would have to be postponed if there was heavy rain that day. A particularly difficult stretch of the road existed about one mile west of Lacombe, just past the present golf club, where there was a small slough. The road was diverted around this virtually at water level. More than once our car slid into the water and had to be pulled out by a team of horses.

The farm on the north side of the road just past the slough (at present notable because of a yard full of junk machinery) was then owned by a family who, almost every day, came to Aspen Beach and called at every cottage to peddle fresh vegetables. I recall this family mainly because, being European immigrants, they announced themselves every time by calling loudly "vigtables".

Vegetables from this source, bread and buns from the Bentley bakery, eggs, chickens and milk were all available at the cottage doors from vendors who came regularly. The Hug family, from their farm just east of the beach, were the main suppliers of milk products at first. In the very early years milk was delivered by Hug family members in a horse and buggy driven by Iris Hug, a good-looking pleasant young woman wearing a long dress and a hat. To my recollection, Iris initially married Otto Woellner, proprietor of the Gull Lake Village Grocery Store. The marriage however was short. I'm not sure whether she died or there was a divorce. Ott then married again. This marriage endured and there were two children - a boy and a girl.

The earliest storekeeper on the beach was George Fernie with his wife and family. Mr. Fernie was a jack-of-all trades who could fix your car, repair your cottage or build a brick fireplace. He supplied chopped wood when we needed it and regularly delivered ice for the refrigerators, there being no electrical power in those days. Mrs. Fernie and her daughters managed the store and the postal station which was originally there. Just to the east of the Fernie store was a building containing a dance floor. Dances were held there regularly. There was a band (I believe Mart Kenney played there a few times). You only paid if you danced. A five cent fee bought a ticket which allowed you, and your chosen partner for that dance, to go on the floor and dance three encores. Then a rope was stretched across one end of the floor and carried to the other end to clear all the dancers off the floor. To return for the next dance, it would cost another nickle.

To the west of Fernie's store, where the road off the highway angles into the village road, there was a small hotel known as MacDonald's Academy. This had a shape something like New York's famous Flat Iron Building. It too had a dance floor addition behind it.

The Gull Lake Hotel was on the site now occupied by the Village Hall. One could dine there on a porch above the water's edge. The Hotel originally had a small dock adjacent to the hotel on the lake. Later the Provincial Government built a large pier extending out several hundred feet to end in water deep enough for diving into. Initially there was a low diving board at the end of this pier. The pier was protected from ice damage in the winter by having its deep end flanked by two large rock-filled steel plate encased bulwarks. This pier and the beach around it were the site of the annual Gull Lake regattas with contests for swimmers, divers, canoeists, rowers, motor boats and sandcastle builders. Near the pier was a slide about 20 feet high which provided a thrilling plunge for young people into more shallow water. As the waters of the lake receded, leaving the entire pier high and dry, the Province built a large double deck diving raft which could be anchored in deeper water.

Moving further west, one came to the Aspen Beach Grocery Store. This was originally established by "The Brothers", i.e. Ott and Gabe Woellner. Later the store, now called Rimrock, was run by Gabe for a few years. The Aspen Beach Grocery, known mainly as Ott's Store, was a place where one could buy all sorts of supplies. There was a tall, glass tank topped gas pump out front. Chickens were raised beside the store. In behind was a huge pile of firewood which Ott himself cut and chopped during the winter. There, also, was his ice shed. During the winter he obtained the ice from the lake, cut it into approximately 12-inch cubes which were stored in the shed surrounded by sawdust. Every day, Ott would drive a team of horses pulling a large wagon along the beach road delivering ice to the cottages for their refrigerators. He would return later, if requested, with a load of firewood. In this enterprise Ott was in direct competition with the Fernie family who also supplied ice and wood.

The railroad branch line from Lacombe to Bentley and Rimbey was there from very early days. There used to be a small station called Aspen Beach Station. Next to it, on a siding with cattle loading facilities, was a large grain elevator. The operator of this was Tom Lorimer who, after a while, built and operated the store on that site. Between this and Ott's Store, lived the Jenkins family who operated a farm extending south of the tracks and who also had pasture land in the field now occupied by cottages between the village road and the highway.

Dolly Jenkins at first worked for Tom Lorimer in operating his store. When he passed away it became "Dolly's Store" for many years. The Post Office was moved there in later years.

The area south of what is now known as Premier Avenue is low and, when the lake was high, was swampy. As the lake level lowered, it became dry. The area now occupied by the Rimrock Resort was originally owned by Judge MacGillivray who built, in it, a tennis court of crushed red slate. This was far back near the highway, reached only by a winding path through the thick bush which was mostly willows. A group of boys, of which I was one, built a tree house back in the taller trees which was a fun place.

At one point in time, a development group threatened to buy the entire remaining acreage south of Premier Avenue and set up a string of motels made from old freight cars. The cottage owners on the beach side were revulsed by this idea, banded together and formed the Aspen Beach Development Corporation which raised money and purchased all this land, which they have successfully kept development free ever since.

The land to the west of the village was originally farm and pasture land owned by one or two families. The beach there was known as Brewer's Beach after one of these families. This area is now entirely taken over by the Aspen Beach Provincial Park.

When my family first purchased "Rest Haven" Cottage the water's edge was very close. There was only a strip of white sand about 25 feet wide between the tall spruce trees and the lake front. My father built a stone fireplace on this beach which exists to this day marking the level the lake once had. As the waters receded there was a period when reeds grew in the shallows extending out 50 to 100 feet making a messy stretch through which one had to wade to get to clear water. Many people built small piers to get over this.

At the west end of the lake, in the bay sheltered by Walker's Point, and now the public beach area, the water was filled with reeds. This made for good fishing. We could troll for pike there and, in an evening, be sure to catch two or three quite large pike. Pike as large as 16 pounds have been caught there. At the other end of the beach was Sucker Ditch. This was an actual stream running into the lake in its day. Fishing there was done by wading into the water and pulling a spinner around oneself on the end of a line attached to a long bamboo pole. This made for good fishing.

Boating was, at first, mainly by canoes and small rowboats. Then outboard motors appeared. The first, I remember, was a one- cylinder Evinrude "Put-Put" owned, I believe, by the Fernie family. As horse power increased I had a 2 1/2, Syd Sutherland had a 3 1/2 and Bill MacGillivray had a 10. Rube Ward and family went up to 16 H.P., mooring his boat on a sunken tractor wheel which is now high on the beach. Then Fred Stapels and his son Dick, broke the speed barrier with a 22 H.P. Evinrude which was kept in a removable boat house at the end of a long pier. Initially these boats pulled toboggan shaped Aquaplanes upon which one could stand and ride, holding onto a roped cross bar. Water skiing, sailing and, now, windsurfing have each had their time of popularity.

I have a somewhat anecdotal and perhaps inaccurate memory of people who inhabited the village in past years.

Judge and Mrs. C.A. Stuart stand out. They were amongst the earliest beach goers at Gull Lake. Their cottage, "Casa Kiaska", was originally two cottages which were later joined together by a gabled roof between them and a deck. This was screened at both ends and was, at times, called the Hurricane Deck when heavy winds screamed through it. After the Judge's somewhat early death, Mrs. Stuart and her family, Eric, Rocky and Gerry continued to come to the Lake every year. For a while, a major social event was Mrs. Stuart's annual masquerade party. Her cooking was wonderful.

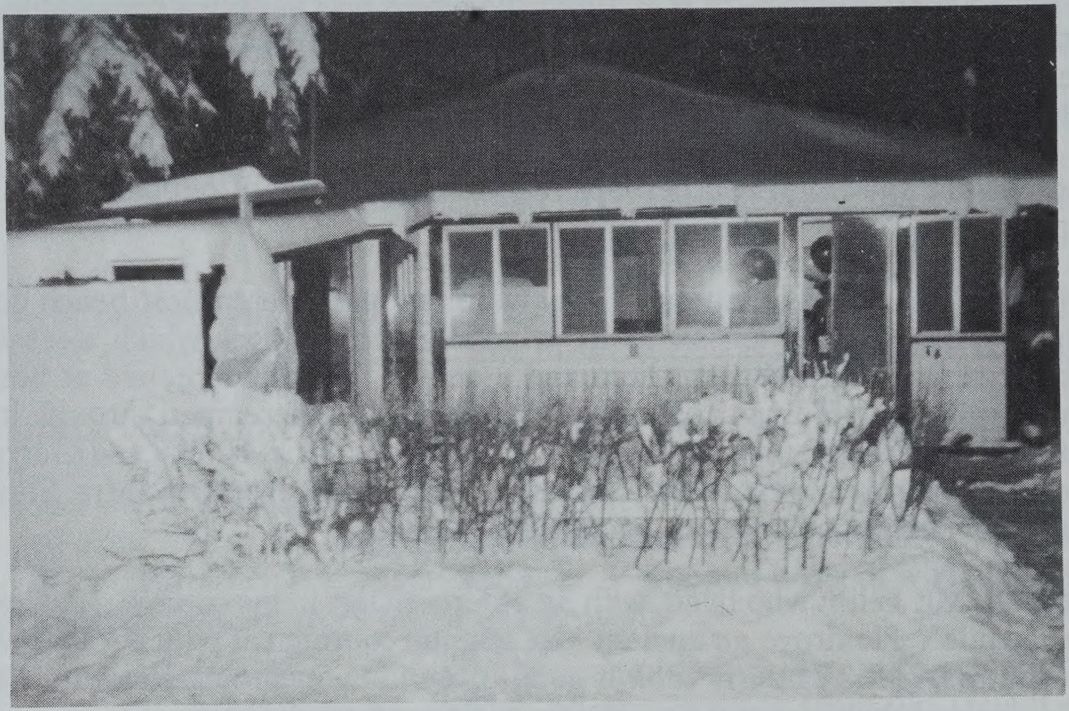
I vividly recall a Mr. Elliot who lived, with an elderly sister, in his cottage which was called, I think, "Restawhile". He drove an ancient McLaughlin touring car with a fold down roof and celluloid windows. He regularly took a gang of us kids, including Pete and Ike (Albert) McCalla, Malcolm Johnstone and Bob Reikie to fish at Sucker Ditch.

Bruce Fernie and his father once built a Model T engine propeller driven ski-mobile for use on the frozen lake. This was a long way ahead of its time. Bruce was killed in World War I.

The Gull Lake Hotel manager at one time, was the father of Charlie Awde, a doctor who, for a while, was the head of the Family Practice Training Program at the Calgary General Hospital.

A cottage possession, remarkable for its time when cabins were non-winterizable, was a large grand piano owned by Mrs. McCalla, mother of Pete, Ike and Buster (Robert). She was a member of the Calgary Symphony Orchestra. Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland, parents of Sydney, Mary and Bunty were prominent early villagers. Mrs. Sutherland, who is now over 90 years of age, used to swim, accompanied by Mary, from the beach in front of their cottage to the tip of Walker's point one or twice a week.

Judge McGillivray's property with its tennis court and a large boathouse containing a ping-pong table became the gathering point for many of the young people of my time. Bill MacGillivray, later to become Chief Justice of Alberta, usually brought friends from Calgary to stay with him. These included Ted Willis whose mechanical prowess kept Bill's car called "Sophie the Bug" going, and Bob Pentland. The latter, who was once Alberta Junior Badminton Champion, was unfortunately seriously injured in a crash of a World War II Spitfire fighter and rendered paraplegic. The above mentioned boathouse, which still exists almost in line with the cottages was, when built, equipped with a sort of marine railroad extending 50 or 60 feet to the water's edge. It was planned that their boat could be loaded on a wheeled carrier and towed up to and into the boat house with a winch powered by a small gasoline engine. This ingenious system was unfortunately rendered useless by the retreating lake waters.



1984 - Winter scene at "Rest Haven".

Ott: *"Do you know why the birds fly backwards?"*

No.

"To keep the dust out of their eyes."

"IDLEWYLDE"
#43 Premier Avenue

By Deanne McGachie Cassie

In about 1915-1916 my mom, Phyllis Osborne, would go up to the Lake with her mother and father, Fred and Florence Osborne. The one story that really sticks in my mind is one she would tell of canoeing and being able to talk to her mother while she was on the front porch. The water level in those days was about fifty feet from the cottages. They apparently went up for the summer during her youth. She married P. Gordon McGachie in the late twenties.

My parents rented cabins for many years until 1946 when they bought "Idlewylde" from the Gilmore family of Lacombe. The following years at the lake brought lots of joy to our whole family. Mother went up every summer, with Dad commuting on weekends. When he retired, they would go up July 1st and stay through the September long weekend.

My husband, Gordon Cassie, and I would go up on weekends during the 60's and 70's. After Dad died, we went up with Mom for a couple of weeks at a time. The cabin is now ours and we are using it every summer. We open up in April and close up in October.

We love it just as my parents did.

Phyllis and Gordon McGachie.

"BILMARIS"
#49 Premier Avenue

By Margaret Howson Craig

I have been going to Gull Lake for 68 years and my husband, Gardner Craig, for even longer as his family spent several summers at the Lakeview Hotel. Our cottage "Bilmaris" was originally owned by my mother, Jane Howson, from Edmonton and was built by her and her husband William R. Howson about 1930. The lot on which "Bilmaris" and the "Caboose" stand was bought by my grandfather, John Carmichael of Edmonton, and a friend when the lake was first developed. He and his family travelled by train to Lacombe and then transferred to the "Peanut" to Aspen Beach Station. The friend left the Province and my father, W.R. Howson, of Edmonton, bought his share of the property. A Presbyterian minister, Mr. McGugan, of Knox Presbyterian Church, Edmonton, built the original "Caboose" on the property with my grandfather's permission and when he left that church he sold the cabin to my grandfather. The "Caboose" was later moved to the east half of of the lot and my father built "Bilmaris" on the west portion.

In my early days at the lake, the Fernie's store was the only one and it also housed the Post Office and the telephone. Fathers coming up for the weekend bought supplies as well. Later on, anyone lucky enough to have a car to make occasional trips to Lacombe would get lists from others along the beach and deliver same on the way home. Later, Ott Woellner and his wife, Iris, opened a store west of there with an ice-cream parlor in the back which became a teen-age gathering place. Mrs. Mitchell, from Camrose, had a corner store, "Broadway" (now the Rimrock Resort) and Tom Lorimer, the station agent or elevator operator, built Dolly's. It was run for many years by Doris (Dolly) Pelachaty and her husband Phil. The post office and telephone were moved there. Neighbouring farmers brought fresh vegetables and sold them door to door --- also chickens. Milk was also delivered door to door by the John Hug family who lived just east of the lake on the highway, and by the Jenkins family.

In the very early days, when no ice was delivered, my family kept milk and vegetables in two "cellars" in front of the "Caboose." They are still there. These were two tile pipes sunk into the ground about 3 feet, with removable wooden floors in the bottom and wooden covers. My brother, Bill Howson, still used them this year for vegetables from his garden. Before the cellars could be used each spring, my mother would scald them with kettles of boiling water poured around the sides. Later, Ott Woellner cut ice from the lake in the winter and delivered it twice a week. He always had a "joke" with the delivery. Ott also sold and delivered stove wood. Some of the farmers' wives brought some baking, but we all remember the Bentley Meat Market and the great angel cakes and spice cakes which, ordered Thursday, were delivered for the weekend.

I remember many big bonfires along the shore - everyone was invited. One special fire about 1944 was built by my brother, Bill, and his teen-age friends. It was the biggest one I can remember. People went by boat, some by car and some hiked across fields to get there. When the fires burned down, we formed bucket brigades to make sure the ashes were completely doused.

During World War II, I remember many cottages being shuttered - there was little or no sale for them. After the war, the cottages began to open up, many by "children" of longtime owners through the years. Other cottages were bought by young people whose families had been regular renters.

In my teen years there were three dance halls. One at the old hotel which stood where the hall is, one at the triangular corner east of there, and the third at the hall next to Fernie's store. At 10 cents a dance we could go from one to another. Usually, after age 16, we went about twice a summer (if someone could get their father's car) to Sylvan. Miss Marjorie Allin, of Edmonton, taught swimming and we could qualify for our Red Cross life- saving medals. I remember the big Regattas at the Government pier with the Wrigley Mile Swim being the big event.

Daily at 10 a.m., for several years, Tom Lorimer's store became the "senate" when some of the older men including Mr. Lorimer, W.R.Howson, retired Army Major Featherston and others met to "solve" the problems of the world. Another memory is of Fred Stapells, of Calgary, who owned " Ellangawan", now "Peacock Perch EEEE" (Marg and Ralph Peacock). He owned the most luxurious boat on the lake, an inboard motor with mahogany hull and blue leather upholstered seats. On the day the Government Pier was opened, it was arranged that some of the Ministers of the Social Credit Government would be taken for a ride around the Lake in this boat. Sadly, the engine stalled quite far out and the boat had to be paddled slowly to the Pier. When the dignitaries disembarked they stalked off without even a "Thank you."

I also remember the winter Mrs. Fernie became interested in a religious group and the dance hall was not opened as such the following summer. Instead, Sunday School classes were held in the hall, which was later torn down.

1943 - Judge Howson and Mrs. Howson with Isabel, Gardner Craig, Marg and Bill Howson.

FENERTY'S "GREENCOTE"
#51 Premier Avenue

By Michael Fenerty

The Fenerty family first started visiting Gull Lake about 1935. At that time Lloyd Fenerty, a lawyer in Calgary and an avid duck and upland game hunter, would frequent the area and combine his hunting trips with visits with Judge McDonald and his family at their Lakeview cottage. He fell in love with the lake area and over the next few years the family, including his son Buzz and wife Muriel and three sons Mike, Ron and Brian, his daughter Ruth and husband Torchy Hilliker and two daughters, Barb and Sue, rented the Lakeview, Barfords and Y-Go-Home cottages before purchasing the cottage known as Greencote in 1943. Greencote means "Green Cottage" and throughout its history has always been painted and decorated in various shades of green. The cottage was built during the Depression years by a builder by the name of Newman who apparently built many of the cottages along the south end of Gull Lake during the 30s.

Construction practices at that time were interesting to say the least, because as more recent renovations and repairs have exposed the internal framework of the cabin it became apparent that every available scrap of lumber regardless of its size or shape was salvaged from somewhere and used to complete any wall or roof that would subsequently be covered with siding etc.

Over the last 45 years "Greencote" has been the summer home to five generations of Fenerty's. During that 45 years the family has seen many changes take place in the Village and to the cottage. 1948 was the year we installed a hand pump in our kitchen and no longer had to haul water from the Village well. 1951 the cabin was updated with modern plumbing and a landscaped yard. The road or laneway giving access to the cottages was always of interest to young and old alike. When the road was freshly bladed it became a speedway, so many cottagers including my father would rush out with a shovel and dig their own speed bumps in the sandy road bed, much to the chagrin of the Village Council. Usually the road had many low spots and soft spots that would fill with water during the summer rains. These large puddles were great for kids and not so great for the cars. The puddles and the private speed bumps all too soon became a thing of the past as the Village Council yielded to requests to improve the road and our sandy trail became an oiled road.

During this 45 year period we have enjoyed (with a degree of melancholy) the coming of electricity, propane, natural gas and telephones. While these changes were taking place at the cottages, the lake and beach areas were also changing. At one time my grandfather had a reputation for driving the fastest boat on the lake. This claim was hotly contested by Bill McGillivray (later Chief Justice for Alberta) and his father's "Century" speedboat which could reach speeds of up to 20 mph. One of the big advantages Lloyd Fenerty had was that his motor would always start on the first or second pull, while Bill's motor usually took 10 to 20 pulls to start it. By that time of course my grandfather was long gone. Slowly our 5 to 25 horse motors were replaced by bigger and bigger motors and nowadays, it is not unusual to see a drag boat moving across the lake at speeds well over 60 mph.

Sailing has also seen a drastic change. It has only been in the last 15 years or so that sailing has become very popular on Gull Lake. Prior to that time most boaters considered Gull Lake too dangerous to sail on because of the way the winds would blow. Today sailers like Con Colley and myself can hardly wait for the wind to really blow up a storm.

Water skiing has become very popular with our power boat enthusiasts. Back in the 40s and 50s our boats would not pull a skier fast enough so we used surfboards. These boards, just like our homemade boats have largely given way to fiberglass mass production items that require a lot less maintenance.

The beach itself has always been a focal point for wide ranging games like football, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, kick the can, etc., and today as in years long gone my family likes to spend a summer evening around a bonfire with friends and neighbours. I would usually play my guitar a bit and some pretty good sing-a-long evenings occurred. This in turn led to the small band that I play with bringing their instruments and for the last 20 years this band (Mike Fenerty, Paul Whitman and Ken Rattray) have entertained privately at the lake, ably assisted, I might add, by Ron Fenerty, Lauri Desreux and other cottagers who happened to drop by to enjoy the music and company. These yearly musical evenings prompted Paul to write a song which he felt explained or depicted the beauty and enjoyment many cottagers experience during their summer holiday on our Aspen Beach area at Gull Lake. The song is built around the three musical instruments we play but it can just as easily apply to any of the many family groups who enjoy a good bonfire and/or sing-along type summer evening on the beach.

Summertime Saturday Night

By Paul Whitman

Ther'll be pickin and singin, when the sun goes down,
Come a July day, on the aspen ground,
Where you can't go wrong, for doing it right,
On a summertime Saturday night.

And the guitars, they would play away,
To the old songs, and the tunes of the day,
The words would always, come out right,
On a summertime Saturday night.

Chorus:

And we'd all gather round, in the pale moonlight,
Singin our songs, and feelin allright,
Well never have you seen, such a sight,
On a summertime Saturday, summertime Saturday night.

And you could hear, the banjo ring,
The silver picks, upon the strings,
Dancing round in the evening light,
On a summertime Saturday night.

Chorus

And you could feel, the rhythm of the base,
In every line, the style and grace,
Playing the "Rail" is a pure delight,
On a summertime Saturday night.

Chorus

On a summertime Saturday night.

1986 - Mike and pals performing at the Desreaux's Hootenanny.

1986 - Enjoying the music.

"NANALKA"
# 53 Premier Ave.

From the notes Katherine Elliot Lewis and her daughter, Karol Lewis Maschmeyer

In 1914, Joseph Elliot and a Mr. Fraser bought a fifty foot lot between them. Mr. Fraser had three sons, Ian, Allan and Gordon, and so talked of calling the cottage he intended to build Ian-al- gor. The Elliots thought that it was a great idea and as they had three daughters, Nan, Alice and Kay, they named their cabin "Nanalka". Unfortunately, when Mrs. Fraser arrived to view her husband's purchase, she was most upset for it was so far away from the hotel, which was the centre of social life at the time. Therefore, Mr. Fraser sold his half and later bought a place closer to the Post Office which he called "Buttin Ben".

Joseph and Kate Elliot stayed and built a small cabin on their twenty-five feet. Here the girls spent two months each summer with their mother and father came for weekends and his holidays. One of the features which the whole family loved was an immense, tall pine tree which stood on the halfway mark between the two lots. It was their landmark and could be seen from far out into the water. Birds of all kinds nested in it and the squirrels played in the branches, becoming so tame that they took food from the girls' hands. The whole family was devastated when they arrived for their holiday one summer to find that the new neighbour had chopped it down because it shaded his cabin.

Katharine Lewis tells of her happy days at the Lake. She remembers the train trip from Edmonton, then the long drive in Sage's horse drawn livery along the old dirt road to the cottage. Later on Mr. Sage brought his passengers out by car.

Their cottage was on the water's edge as were all of the others along the beach. Many people built boathouses in front of their places set partly in the water to make it easy to bring the boats up and down. The Elliots did not have a boathouse but they did rent a canoe every year from the boathouse near the Lakeview Hotel. She and her friends loved to paddle up to the hotel to have a strawberry soda in the ice cream parlor which stood on the east side the hotel. They then picked up the mail at the Post Office which was still in the old Wiese house where Dolly Jenkins lived later.

Later on, the railway was built and the train passed through several times a week in route to Bentley. The children loved to watch it pull in at the small station where the freight and mail were dropped off. They always stayed until the train pulled out for Bentley and then waited for the mail to be sorted.

The children considered the hotel a most luxurious spot. There was a lounge with a huge fireplace overlooking the lake and just to the back of it was the community hall where dances were held every Saturday night.

The Government built a pier in front of the hotel in 1928 and the highlight of the summer was a regatta with swimming and boating races. The Pier became the centre of attraction for many years until one year the ice was very heavy and destroyed it. It was never rebuilt.

Another attraction was a pleasure boat, the Queen of Calgary. She was elegant with a covered top and seats around the sides. She left from the Government Pier in front of the hotel for a two hour cruise along the shoreline of the lake and was "the thing to do" during the summer.

When the Elliot girls were small, the land across the lane from their cottage was a slough with tall grass and cat-tails. The girls and their friends spent hours making themselves Hawaiian skirts from the long grasses while the boys spent just as many hours building tree forts. They were all forbidden to play near the creek which was beside the little store, known as the Rimrock today, because the water was six to eight feet deep and their parents were afraid someone would drown.

1914 - Kate Elliot and daughters, Nan, Kay and Alice.

Saskatoons, pin cherries, choke cherries and raspberries grew in abundance and the children spent many hours helping their mothers pick berries. It was worth it for later on they would feast on fresh berries covered with thick cream or eat the delicious pies and jams.

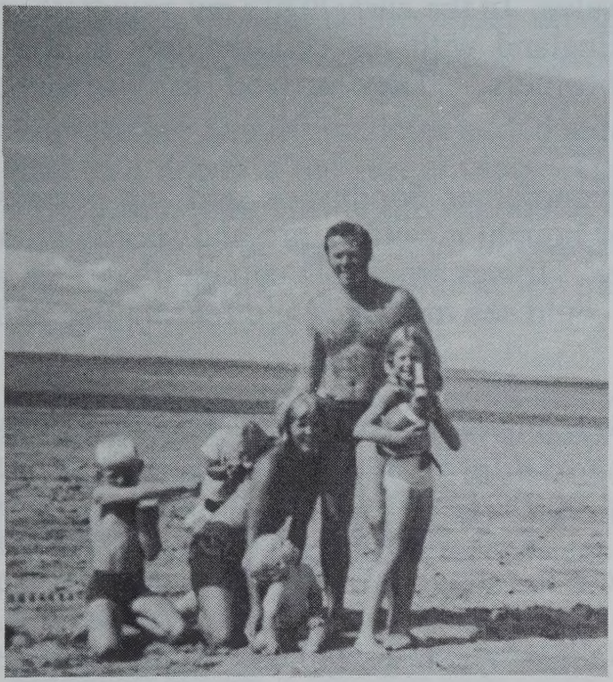
After dark they stayed inside and played cards in the dim light of coal oil lamps or put on plays for the adults.

The original cabin was torn down and another built in the 1950's and today the great great-grandchildren of Joseph and Kate Elliot still come to the lake to enjoy their holidays in Nanalka Cottage.

WOODLAND
# 57 Premier Avenue

By Shirley Williams Grace

In 1967, my husband Don, and I returned to Canada after a four year absence. We wanted a lake cottage for ourselves and our four children, Sandra, Cameron, Susan and David. We spent the summer visiting all the different lakes in the area, including Windemere and the Okanagan. We came to the conclusion that there were no beaches as nice as at Gull Lake. We bought Woodland Cottage in 1969 and have spent part of each summer at the Lake ever since.


1970 - Don and Shirley Grace with four children, Cameron, Susan, David and Sandra.

For three summers, our daughter, Sandra, kept her horse, Moon, at Hugs. One year Sandy Nesselbeck, Joanne McDonald and Sandra rode in the Bentley Parade and participated in the Rodeo.

Gull Lake continues to be a meeting place for family and friends, thus the tradition began by my grandparents, George and Martha Wallace, in 1908, continues.

1985 - The Grace Clan at "Woodland".

GULL LAKE MEMORIES

#59 Premier Avenue

By Douglas James Innes

My father, Douglas Vincent Innes, born in Halifax, Nova Scotia was orphaned at a young age and began travelling on his own when he was twelve. In the early 1920's my grandfather, Laban Sandbrook, emigrated from Weymouth, England with his children, my mother, Catherine Charlotte Sandbrook, and her two brothers. They arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba where my parents met and married.

After spending a short time in Melville, Sask., grandfather Sandbrook and my parents moved to Lacombe, Alberta, where my grandfather bought a candy store and shortly after bought his first cottage at Gull Lake, "Oh-So-Cozy". It was from this cottage that I, as a toddler, nearly drowned in Gull Lake. My mother could see my hands and feet flailing and her scream sent my sisters racing to me just in time.

Grandfather then purchased the Lakeview Hotel and adjacent properties. The Hotel was situated east of the present Gull Lake Hall. This was a three-storey building with an ice cream parlour on the first floor and rooms to rent upstairs with a common kitchen. His property ran from the present Hall's site to Lund's cottage with the exception of Gunn's Candy Shop (which stood where Helsenteger's present cottage is). In this area were the Lakeview Hotel, "Rodney Cottage" (really a house), tennis court, boathouse and dance hall. He also bought numerous other cottages along the lake which he rented out. Some of these he had built by Mr. Newman from Lacombe.

My father, in the meantime, was the Alberta Government Telephones representative for the Lacombe, Ponoka, Gull Lake area. He held this position for nearly 50 years and became well known as a man who worked hard and played hard.

Working during this era, conditions were harsh with transportation via horse and buggy over dirt roads to maintain the open wire telephone system and party-line service in a rural area. During the frigid winters and during the influenza epidemic, my father maintained that his trusty S-shaped pipe and tobacco kept him "free of the flu" as he offered dedicated service to keep the lines open for the doctors and isolated settlers. He established a reputation of local fame by visiting and knowing many people in the Lacombe - Gull Lake area and called every man his friend. I commenced my own 34 year career with AGT checking the lines and digging post holes with Dad in my childhood and youth.

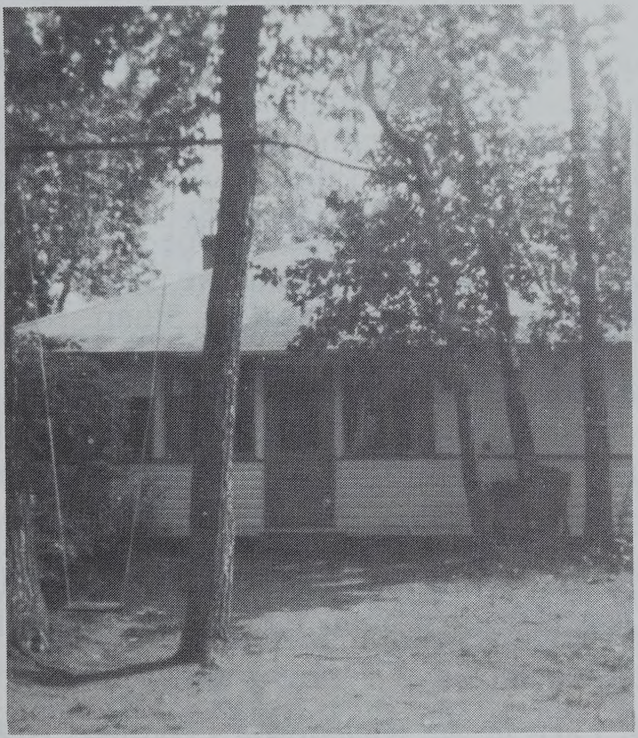
My father also owned various cottages at Gull Lake from the early 20s. As children, we spent summers in my grandfather's Rodney Cottage as my two sisters and two brothers and I worked every summer in the ice cream parlour, cleaned rooms, rented change rooms and canoes in the boat house, ran the tennis court and performed many other functions. As we earned no wages, my brothers and I would help ourselves to chocolate bars and cigarettes and hide them in the gopher holes in Fernie's pasture for later enjoyment with Ernie and Wally Fernie. My mother always seemed to know when we'd been indulging in "smokes" and we'd be forced to eat our supper; queasy stomachs or not!

When the whitecaps were rolling in, my brother Donny and I would take a canoe out and spend the evening paddling and flipping it and riding the waves back in.

My grandfather eventually sold his property in Lacombe and moved to the lake on a permanent basis. At the Hotel he installed electricity which was provided by a one cylinder engine and battery which we had to start every sundown. This replaced the coal oil lamps. The tennis court was in great demand: a cement court that you can still see parts of today. Grandfather bought a 12 cylinder inboard motor boat for the lake but due to the shallow water it proved impractical so had a short life span.

Grandfather Sandbrook later added a dance hall to the Hotel, which was the old Gull Lake Hall torn down in the recent years. This hall came from the other hotel at Gull Lake, the Thistle Inn. The Thistle Inn was at the "V" (by the Provincial Group Campground area) and was a lovely three storey hotel but was never much in use. It seemed to change hands often and there would be spasmodic action only to die down again. When we were young we used to explore it when empty.

The evening centre of activity for the young people was Fernie's Store which was located east from the Thistle Inn where a bakery was in the 50s. Every evening we would gather to play softball or kick the can. The Fernies also had a farm with cattle, etc. Mr. Fernie was a carpenter and built boats. They had a large store, post office and dance hall. The Fernies supplied ice and wood for the cottagers. Ott's store and ice house also provided these services. We spent many a day loading the Model T truck with wood to deliver. We also loaded it up to go to the show at Bentley on Saturday nights.



"Doolittle" Cottage

My brother Donny and I also took over the Calgary Herald delivery from Andy Gilmore. There were always more Calgarians at Gull Lake than Edmontonians.

In those days Premier Avenue (the Back Lane) was not a through road. You had to go back on to the highway and down Ebeling's road to get to the few cottages at the west end of the lake.

The Government Pier, built during the depression, was to the east of the Hall where the present lake campgrounds are. We used to gather here to swim and sun bathe. For many years the Wrigley Regatta was held off this pier with speed boat races. As the lake's water receded, the pier was left high and dry and was eventually torn down. On the east side of the lake was the Old Sawmill and Sucker Ditch. On the west was Brownlow's Landing with the haunted house.

Every time my father felt it was time to wash his car (his pride and joy) he would drive it into the lake to scrub it and get it stuck. Inevitably we would all end up in the lake, pushing the sand-mired car onto dry land until next "wash" day.

Another oldtime lake family was the Jenkins. They are still on their homestead across from the hall and farmed across the railway tracks as well. We used to raid their garden in the summer. Later on, Mr. Lorimer opened a store where the present Patton's Place is and Dolly Jenkins ran it. The Post Office and telephone exchange moved there after Fernie's store closed down.

My grandfather Sandbrook died in 1942. I credit him with believing in the lake and introducing many commercial functions to it throughout his life. At his death my family lost his holdings at Gull Lake, except for Doolittle cottage, 59 Premier Avenue, which at that time we rented out every summer.

We stayed in Doug Inn, my father's cottage, until 1945 when the Service forced us to miss our precious Gull Lake summers for several years. Eventually my parents sold Doug Inn for $350.00 and it was moved off the lot. We then moved to Doolittle cottage which my family still owns and enjoys every summer. My son, Stuart Innes, has recently built his new cottage close to Patton's Place so that the 5th generation of Innes' can enjoy Gull Lake summers.

"221 B BAKER STREET"
#61 Premier Avenue

By Catherine Moriarty

My husband, Joe and I, came to Calgary in 1945 as a bride and groom when Joe was posted to Tecumseh as Medical Officer. Through his navy friend, Tom Richardson, we met Dr. and Mrs. J.W. Richardson who kindly arranged a place for us to live with Mrs. C.A. Stuart.

Mrs. Stuart regaled us with tales of long summer days at Gull Lake, of the interminable journey by train followed by bumping along the dirt road from Lacombe to get there, but most often she spoke of the beautiful sunsets, more beautiful than anywhere else in the world!

After Joe's discharge from the Navy we returned to Ontario never dreaming that a little more than a year later we would be back in Calgary to live upon the invitation of Dr. J.W.Richardson to join him in medical practice.

In 1947 we spent our two week vacation at Gull Lake in the Richardson's cottage, "Rest Haven". That was the beginning of our association with the Lake. It was not too far from Calgary and the beach was safe for our growing family.

By 1954, with five children, we approached Sam Helman of Calgary, hoping he might consider renting his large cottage, "The Cobbles" for a month. He told us he intended selling and named a price. Sight unseen, we took it and consider it the best investment we ever made.

How exciting it was on the first long weekend in May to drive up to our "own cottage"! What fun to inspect our property, our house, our furnishings, which included a Limoge dinner set, slightly chipped. "The Cobbles" was one of the cottages built by Bert Newman of Lacombe. The fireplace, a focal spot, was made of fieldstone and some of the furniture was constructed from railway ties which still serve well today. The land was part of a parcel purchased by Robert J. Scott, Margaret E. Garland and Henry M. Trimble of Lacombe. It appeared to have been sold at least once, then in 1930 was purchased by Thomas E. Newman of Lacombe. The cottage was originally built for rental then finally sold to Frances G. Helman of Calgary.

Our first act was to change the name from "The Cobbles" to "221 B Baker Street" known as a residence for Dr. Moriarty of Sherlock Holmes fame.

From 1954 on, I spent July and August at the Lake while Joe took the month of July for his holiday. For our children, which eventually numbered seven, Fred, Brian, Nora, Burke, Peggy, Morna and Jim, there were only two seasons in the year. Immediately after Christmas the question was, "When do we go to the Lake?", and as we drove down the back lane on the long weekend in September with the cottage shuttered for another winter, "How long is it to Christmas?".

For years we transported children and toys down the path in the old wheel barrow with the current bulldog ambling along behind, to spend hours building sandcastles or playing in the water. Joe became a familiar figure rowing his little red, homemade boat over to the far point to read and drift on the water. The children ended their day by playing "kick the can" with the neighbours and the following year they even remembered whose turn it was to be "it." On rainy days, their friends gathered around the long table to play innumerable games of monopoly or "cheat." Evenings found the family relaxing by the fireplace making popcorn, roasting marshmallows and reading. On chilly evenings in late August, the old tin wash tub was set up in front of a blazing fire, towels were warmed by the grate and the small ones had their baths.

What is that special ambience about our Summer Village that draws us back year after year? Arriving at the Lake we are immediately thrust into a different world. The pressures of city living fade away. No longer does the clock dictate our days. There is time for family, for different generations to share. Time to lie on a cot and watch the clouds drifting overhead, time to read, to run on the beach with a new puppy. Neighbours wander in and out for a cup of coffee, to borrow a tsp. of baking powder, or to enjoy a happy hour. I watch a neighbour's child on the beach while she listens for mine to wake from a nap. There is time to remember, and what memories - the bat that got loose in the bedroom - the storm that tossed canoes like match sticks along the shore.

Our children are grown now and one summer we all worked hard adding an addition, complete with tower, to house our extended family. It is our children now who make the daily trek to the beach with their small ones and paraphernalia. Our grandchildren's friends come in the back door on rainy days to play monopoly on the long dining room table. The fire still warms us on cool evenings as we chat or read, nibbling from huge bowls of popcorn and the sunsets Mrs. Stuart told us about more than forty years ago are still as beautiful.

(Joe was very interested in the work I was doing on the Gull Lake book and helped me to write this article while we holidayed in Hawaii this past February. He will not be with us to share the 75th Anniversary Celebration for he died very suddenly on March 7th. 1988.)

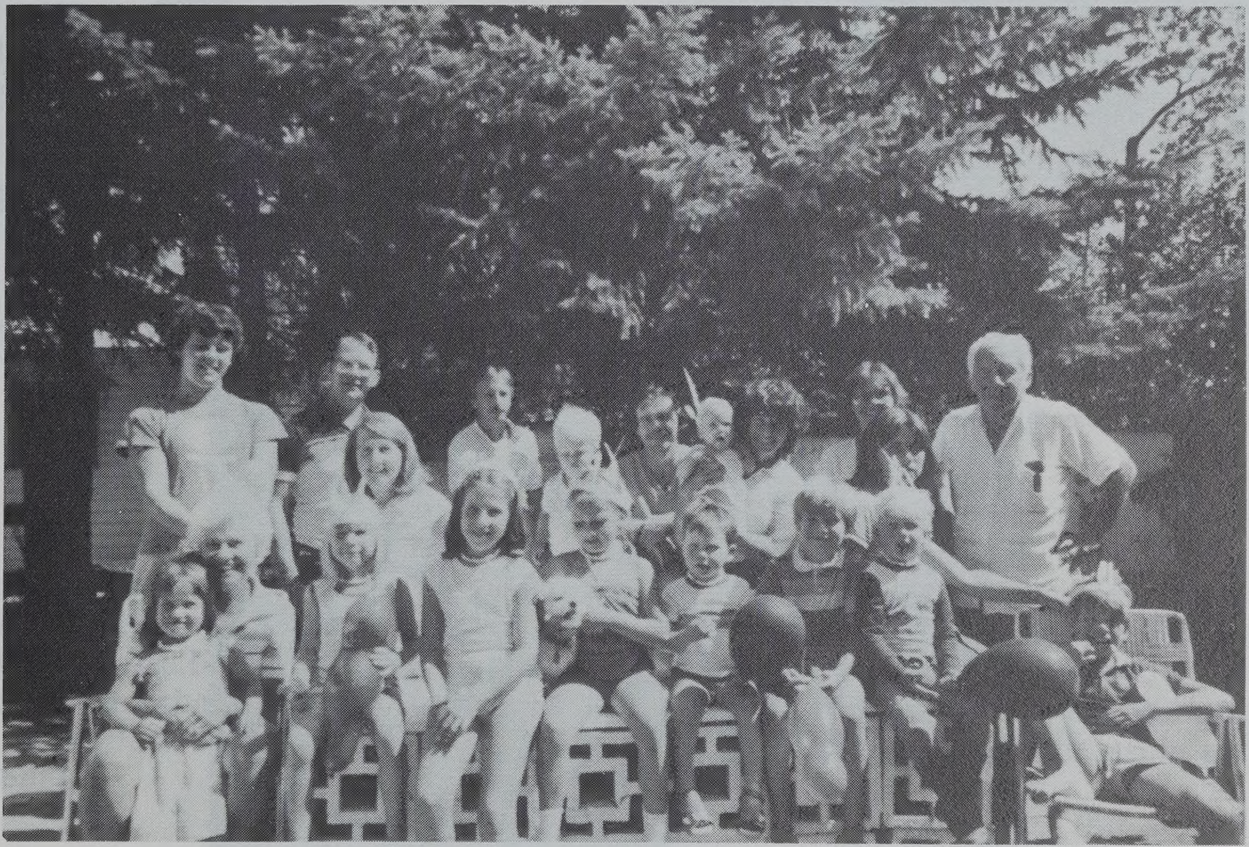
1963 - The Moriarty Family at back gate of cottage, Nora, Peggy, Burke, Jim, Cay, Morna, Fred and Brian.

Ott: *"Did you hear about a big fight at the Post Office?"*

No.

Ott: *"The Postmaster licked the stamp."*

1985 - building a new planter.



The Moriarty Family.

HEPWORTH COTTAGE
#65 Premier Avenue
"A144"

By Gerry Hepworth

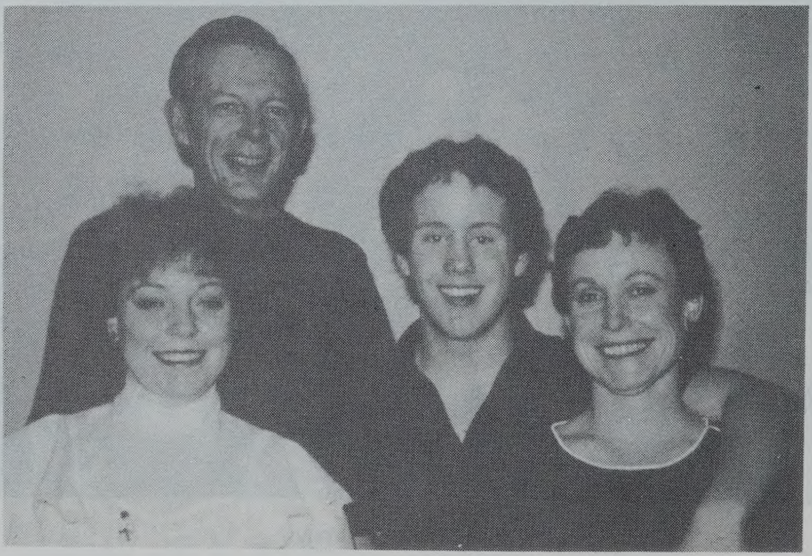
The Hepworth cabin was purchased in May, 1966 from the Lebeau's grandson, Barry Holmes of Red Deer, acting on behalf of his grandmother. Until that time, the cottage had been called "Terrymore" but the Hepworths changed the name to "A144" (A-1 for four people). At that time, there was one daughter aged two, but there was hope that another baby would arrive shortly.

Soon their hope was fulfilled; Susan had a baby brother called Bruce. The two children spent many happy hours participating in the recereation events. Both took part in the swimming lessons which the Recreation Director taught. They found that many good friendships developed that have lasted to this day. When both children reached the age of sixteen, they worked for the Village on the maintenance crew. Many good summers were spent at the Lake!

Structurally, several changes were made to the cottage over the years. Originally, when the cottage was built in 1917 - 1919, it had a U-shaped porch. Over the years, this was incorporated into the main living area until today, there is only a small front porch which is glassed in. The rest of the porch is now dining room, living room and bathroom. This modernization was completed in 1975.

With the cooperation of our neighbours, the McDermids, the scrub brush to the front of the cabin was cleared, forming a play area affectionately known as the "Hepermids" (Hepworth and McDermid).

Changes will probably continue to be made over the years, but they will be made willingly and lovingly. Our cottage is a vital part of our lives which we cherish.



The Hepworth Family - Susan, Gerry, Bruce and Mary Jane.

MCDERMID FAMILY HISTORY AT GULL LAKE
#67 and #69 Premier Avenue

By Bonn McDermid

Joan and I named our cabin "Fourth Generation" simply because our children are in fact the fourth generation of McDermid's that have been at the lake. My grandfather, N.I. McDermid first started coming in the early 1900's, prior to the summer village being incorporated. At that time he ran a drug store in Lacombe and there are a number of references in the Lacombe history book as to this drug store. It is my understanding that during the summer they rented the Lincoln cabin which now belongs to the Jennings. We have a few pictures of my father and my uncle when they were approximately three to five years of age (approximately 1915 to 1920). By that time my grandfather moved from Lacombe to Calgary, so I have to assume that they made some sort of annual trek probably in conjunction with his overseeing the Lacombe drug store.

1955 - Marg McDermid on Burns' pier.

1973 - Marg and Ken McDermid at cottage on Christmas Day.

From what I can gather, there was some sort of an absence of the McDermids' at the lake through the 20's and 30's and it wasn't until shortly after the war that my father and uncle decided to come back. My uncle rented a cabin at the east end known as Red Gull in 1947 and it was later that year that the Selwood cabin, (the cabin Mom currently has) came up for sale. It was Jack Petrie who persuaded my dad and uncle to purchase the cabin and the adjacent lot.

My early recollections of the lake focus mainly on the long trip from Calgary we had to take each week-end. The two McDermid families alternated spending July and August each year and this situation carried on until about 1958 when my uncle's family purchased property west of Calgary.

We used to have a great gang of kids at our end of the beach who played together and it's amazing how many of them are still coming back each summer. Some of these include the Jardines, Prices, Peacocks, Weislers, Hiltons, McGachies, and Howards, just to name a few. In addition, we got to know a number of Lacombe kids, mainly because they delivered milk etc. to the cabins. Some of these people included the Hugs and Treleavens. We spent a great deal of our time "patronizing" the Broadway Confectionary owned by Mrs. Mitchell. This is now the Rim Rock Resort. I recall that our bikes used to be shipped up by Dench Truck Line and on more than one occasion arrived via the C.P.R. At that time, there was a station across the highway from what is now Patton's Place that used to be Dolly's store.

Hot summer days also found a bunch of kids water-skiing from the village rafts. We also spent a great deal of time exploring the back property behind Premier Avenue - that is between Premier Avenue and the highway which was, at the time, dense forest. It always amazed me once that land was cleared to see how short the distance was between the highway and Premier Avenue.

Once Debbie and Robbie arrived on the scene, Joan and I started spending a great deal more time at the Lake and it was in 1978 that we started construction on our cabin.

Helen Glasford, Karen McDermid and Marg Glasford.

RECOLLECTIONS

By Florence Lincoln Morrison

Florence Lincoln on the beach.

I remember the road from Lacombe to Gull Lake! It could, on a rainy day, take hours to get to the lake from Lacombe.

In the late 1920's there was Sunday School in Fernie's Hall, complete with Sunday School papers that we took home. Mr. McLeod from Lacombe (Grace Johnston's father) was the teacher. There were Saturday night dances held in the same hall.

Iris, the milk lady, used to deliver milk in a horse and buggy. I also remember the large Government Pier, where every year, a regatta was held. I seem to recollect a plane crashed into the lake about 1932 or 1933.

The Bentley Meat Market and Bakery would come and take orders and then deliver on a later day. As well, there were deliveries for fruit, vegetables, chickens etc.

Gunn's Candy Kitchen made the best fudge I can remember ever eating.

THE JENNINGS
#73 Premier Avenue

By William Roy Jennings

I have traced the history of our cabin and land dated back to August 17, 1904. The land was originally purchased by Arthur E. Martin, a farmer of Wardner, Idaho in 1904. The land consisted of 29.6 acres. On December 31, 1906, the crown cut out a roadway consisting of 1.36 acres on the lands owned by Martin immediately on the west perimeter of our lot. On January 16, 1907, Robert J. Scott, Margaret E. Garland, and Henry M. Trimble of Lacombe purchased the acreage from Martin. On March 21, 1907, a new sub-division was created with thirty-three lots, our lot being No. 33. It would be of interest to the 32 lots east of ours that their land was in fact subdivided on March 21, 1907. On November 21, 1910, Henry M. Trimble became the owner of Lot No. 33. Henry M. Trimble was the founder of H.M. Trimble & Sons, the hauling contractor. Many years later H.M. Trimble hauling contractors was eventually acquired by the Trimac group of companies.

On July 27, 1921, the lot was purchased by Adelaide Lincoln of Calgary. Her husband was Dr. William Lincoln and the Lincolns had five children: Florence, now Mrs. Vern Morrison of Calgary, a daughter, Edith; and sons John, Donald and Jim. On August 15, 1944, the Lincoln cottage was sold to Hal Laird of Lacombe.

On November 19, 1946, the cottage was purchased by Reginald F. Jennings, my father. It is of interest to know that my father paid no cash for the cottage but accepted the cottage in payment of a gambling debt of Mr. Laird owed to Reginald Jennings. I believe the sum was approximately $1,500.

On December 20, 1948, the cottage was sold to my mother, Anna Elizabeth Jennings. On November 14, 1967, the title was transferred to myself.

Finally on May 18, 1983, the title was transferred to my wife, Amy Karen Jennings. As you can see, the cottage has been with the Jennings family about forty-two years.

Our family's usual length of stay at Gull Lake has been weekends from the first of May to the first of July -- then continuous occupancy till the first of September and weekends again till the end of September.

In the late 40's and early 50's, we shopped in Lacombe for groceries and meats, as well as hardware items from Morrison and Johnston Hardware. In the middle 50's our family shifted their shopping habits from Lacombe to Bentley because of its close proximity and the fine quality of the Bentley merchants, who were Bentley Mercantile, the Holmes family, Red and White Store, the Witheralls, Bentley Meat and Locker, Harold Wilton, Valley Electric, the Red Garries family, Bentley Hardware, the Gordon Garries family.

After World War II, approximately 1948, we had one of the first boats at the lake, which was a 12 ft. wooden Peterborough boat and a 15 H.P. Johnston motor, which was purchased from Morrison and Johnston. I do know that we were also probably the very first family to water ski at Gull Lake in the early 1950's as Bob Burns, our next door neighbour, purchased water skis in Florida. We, of course, did a great deal of shopping at Tom Lorimer's Store, which later became Dolly's.

In addition, we bought some groceries and all our wood from Ott, our ice was delivered by Ernie Fernie, the children and grandchildren, of course, shopped at the Broadway Grocery operated by Mrs. Mitchell.

In our cottage we had no light or water in the late 40's but over the years we installed electricity, a water well, a fireplace and electric heat.

"THE BOWEN YARD" (Part One)
#95 Premier Avenue

By Elizabeth-Ann Bowen Larson

I have been to Gull Lake for thirty-six years and my childhood memories are from the cottage my father's family built in the 1930's. The old cottage, at the time was called "The Bowen Yard", now "Kindle Hope", owned by Dad's sister, Marguerite and Bill Halpen. Dad's family consisted of his mom, Louise Bowen, two brothers, George and John and one sister, Marguerite. He was T.R. (Bob) Bowen.

My family consisted of Dad (Bob), Mom (Phyllis), myself and two brothers, Guy and Robbie Bowen. We came down to the Lake very summer for the entire two month's holidays. We also came on weekends throught the year, and later years at our own cottage, we would celebrate Christmas.

Coming down to the cottage was always a favorite part of our family life. The enjoyment was always there whether rainy or the sun was shining. I learned to swim, water ski, horseback ride, all because we spent a great deal of time there. Sunny days were spent at the beach or exploring areas around the lake. Rainy days were spent playing different games, making up stories or crafts. When it was a bit chilly out, we'd light a fire in the big fireplace and pop popcorn.

Our family were great walkers, even sometimes in the rain. One time, for a Guide badge, Mom and I went for a long walk down to the beach towards the Provincial Park, around the point into some trees by Degraff's old house. There we found the most enchanting spot in the trees, and although I had made a map for the badge, to this day, I've never found that lovely spot again.

The family next door, Boormans, consisted of six boys. They taught me to water ski. The only problem was, they were very big and I was very little, so needless to say, their skis were much too big, however the problem was solved by putting thongs in upside down in the boot of the ski. The first attempt was a disaster! Not only did I wipe out, but I forgot to let go of the rope. I finally learned how to ski and joined the ski club at twelve. One of the things I remember was a raft that sank at one end when too many people stood on it. This became a game and skiers coming in would try to land on the raft. Later, we got a ski jump and tried trick skiing. When bikinis first came in, I learned they were definitely not to be worn water skiing. Many a girl scrambled frantically under water to gather her bikini back around her body.

One year, we put rafters and a ceiling in the main part of the old cottage, but the bedrooms remained open. Sometimes on rainy days or nightime, Granny Bowen would rock me in the old blue rocking chair, sing me songs (sometimes in French), and read me stories. Granny used to pick sweet clover and put it in the rafters of her room. I can still smell it. Her room was one of my favorites, especially her big feather tick mattress. In the living room, there were pictures on the wall done in charcoal by my Uncle John. All the time my family was at the old cottage, there was no modern plumbing. I remember chopping wood and getting water from the pump down the lane.

Some of the memories of youth include the three original stores, Broadway, (now Rimrock), Dolly's (now Patton's) and my favorite, Ott's (now Holiday Inn). Daily treks down to Ott's store was common. I think, for most of the kids, because he had the best selection of penny candy there ever was. I remember Ott's old truck rattling down the lane with ice and firewood. There was also a family that came down the lane selling fresh vegetables.

The Taylors, who owned the riding academy, is where I learned to ride a horse. Mr. Taylor and I became good friends and I was sad to see when there was no riding academy for future kids.

During my teens, I taught swimming and helped supervise sleep-overs. We had bonfires, roller skating, parties, hay rides, night skinny dipping, volley ball games on the beach and baseball. There was always something to do.

In 1971, Mom and Dad bought a cottage four lots down from Grannie's, which became the new "Bowen Yard". They also purchased an old vacation trailer equipped for both eating and sleeping for extra quarters. In 1978, the first addition was built on the cottage by Dad, Guy and Robbie and hot water was installed. In 1980, to everyone's delight, a bathroom with modern plumbing was added.

From the summer of 1975 until the spring of 1977, I lived at the cottage, working at Bentley Gulf Station, driving Angus McKenzie's fuel truck from Edmonton back to Bentley, and at the Lacombe Hotel as a waitress. I remember helping Albert Ebeling load sea weed with the tractor and driving the old Village truck. During this time, there were no modern conviences for me, and although using an outdoor toilet is an experience I could live without, life in the winter was really quiet and enjoyable. The peace and tranquility was wonderful. My dog and I went on many long walks, leaving the only footsteps around in the snow. My horses were kept down at the lake while I lived there and I rode them a lot down through the Village to the old mill.

My worst experience at the Lake was the coldest winter night in 1977, when it went down to -45 degrees F. The heating oil jelled and the propane regulator froze sometime during the night. I woke up very cold and after two or three hours, I got things going again and was the happiest I've ever been to get to work. That experience made me appreciate what the pioneers went through in prairie winters.

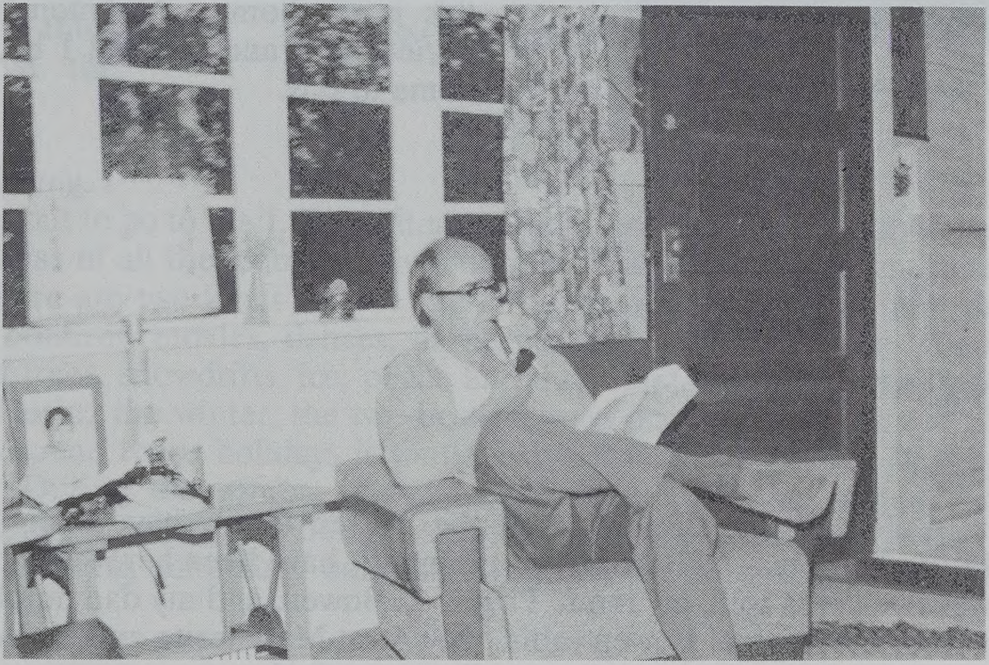
In the summer of 1981, Dad's mother, Louise Bowen, died and was buried in the Gull Lake Cemetery. Dad passed away that same winter and Mom in 1983. They are both buried there with Grannie Bowen. Dad bought eight plots with our agreement and this is where we will all be laid to rest.

The Lake is my favorite place. It is the one spot that always brings me peace of mind. It has always been here and will always be my home. My family is young, Tyrel is five and Mikke three and hopefully, when they are thirty-six, their memories will be as full of happiness as mine.

The "Bowen Yard" now consists of Guy Bowen, Robbie and his future bride, Heather, and Elizabeth, Ran, Tyrel and Mikke Larson.

1935 - Louise Bowen (Granny) at old cabin, "The Bowen Yard".

1967 - Phyllis Bowen, Elizabeth and Robbie walking down the path to the lake.



T.R. (Bob) Bowen relaxing in the livingroom of the new cabin.

"THE BOWEN YARD" (Part Two)

By Guy Bowen

I cannot write a short paragraph on Gull Lake and some past memories. What it means to me is not that simple. I could write paragraphs on paragraphs on my life here, but it would not tell you how important the Lake is to me, or how I feel about it.

1975 - Guy and Robbie starting the motorbike.

I will tell you how I feel about this place and I will start by saying I love it here. I have been coming here since August 1960, the time of my birth. This is a relatively short time compared to some of the folks here but it does not make me love it any less.

The Lake is always home to me. It has always been there for me to enjoy and retreat to. I have spent all seasons at the cabins, summer and winter, though cold is my favourite. I write this at the Lake looking out at the start whiteness of the lake, alone. Happy emotions surround me, making me pause in thought.

There are two important things in my life and everything else is unimportant... My family, which includes close friends, and the Lake. Although I am not here all the time, this is my home. My mom and dad are buried here and so shall I be, then I'll be home to stay.

"THE BOWEN YARD" (Part Three)

By Robert G. Bowen

I have been at Gull Lake for 22 years, but the Bowen family have been here for two generations. My dad, Thomas R. Bowen, and his family, have been here since the 1930's. In 1971, when I was five years sold, my mom, Phyllis C. Bowen, and my dad purchased a cabin four lots down from the original Bowen cabin. My Aunt Marguerite and Uncle Bill Halpen stayed in the old cabin, which they now live in all year around.

I have had a lot of experiences at the lake, more than I can recall. Some memories would be the bonfires, movies, barbecues, dances, and relatives and friends coming to visit. The stronger memories would be things like playing games during rainy days, building the additions and cutting down trees to make more yard, building forts, treehouses, sandcastles, and of course, swimming in the lake from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Sometimes, we would go swimming late at night and probably the best times I had swimming were with my brother, Guy, when it was storming and the waves were quite high. I remember when it would start to storm, Guy and I would stare out the window at the lake and when we saw the white caps, we would get our life-jackets and run to the lake and dive in. When we got back from swimming, the whole family would play a game, usually "Stockticker", which was our favorite game.

1967 - Robbie Bowen with water bucket on back step of old cottage.

Another of my fonder memories is when my dad and I built the two additions on to our cabin; a kitchen and a bathroom. We would go down to the cabin every weekend, most holidays, and because Dad was a teacher, we would go down for the full two months of summer holidays. All in all, I have spent about a third of my life at the Lake.

When I was young, I had no choice but to go to the Lake with my parents, not that I really minded any. However, now I go because of all the memories, and because it is very peaceful and serene, as well as beautiful. There are two kinds of lake life in our family. In the summer, there's the sun, sand, water, bonfires, movies, dances, barbecues and people. In the winter, there's the snow-covered trees, snowdrifts, ice, peace and quiet and the feeling that you are the only ones there. During the winter, the two best holidays occur, Christmas and Easter, and the best place to spend these holidays is Gull Lake because you get the best conditions and atmosphere. During the winter, you can keep yourself just as occupied as during the summer. There's skiing, sledding, skating, skidooing, fishing, snow fort making, snowshoeing, walking, tunneling, building snowmen, watching the animals, picture taking and much more.

"ARTISTE COTTAGE"
#107 Premier Ave.

Source: Nena Eastes Reed

Nena Ross Eastes Reed used to listen to stories about Gull Lake when she was a young girl. In 1891, a friend of the family, a Mr. A.W. Ormsby, who had travelled by Red River cart from Winnipeg to Edmonton, told of a trip he had taken on the Rocky Mountain Trail. The trail ran through the trees in front of where the cottages sit today and Gull Lake was the only place he could water his team as the countryside was so dry.

By 1902 that situation had changed and when Lavina and Louise Ross went with friends one Sunday afternoon for an outing, they came home and told their little sister that at one point the water covering the road was so deep that the horses had to swim. She never knew whether that was fact or fiction, but for sure the water level was high.

A family treat during the summers between 1906 and 1910 was a "day at the lake". The Ross' and some of their friends would rise very early in the morning to get the chores done so that they could reach the lake by dinnertime, which in those days was always at noon. As soon as they arrived, all the children dashed into the bushes to change into their bathing costumes, old dresses for the girls, old short pants for the boys. Then they headed for the beach carrying lard pails and large spoons to play in the sand until called for the feast. Then it was back for a long afternoon of play, time to finish off the goodies and when the sun was setting parents collected their drowsy offspring for the long trek home. Nena, happy and content and lulled by the motion of the wagon and the slow clip-clop of the horse's feet, dreamt that 'someday she would sleep at the lake.'

Although Nena's family never did own a cottage, she did "sleep over" at the lake. Freddie Halpin, a school friend and the daughter of C.P. Halpin of The Western Globe, invited her to spend a week at their place, "Brown Betty", in 1913. There were ten children in the Halpin family and every day the older ones went fishing in the reeds, the area of shallow water and tall reeds at the west side of the beach which covered the area where " Artiste" stands today. The water was rising so rapidly in those years that one of the villagers predicted that soon the cottagers would all be in waist-deep water.

The fall of 1919 was memorable for the lake froze very early and there was no snow or wind until after Christmas. The whole lake became a skating rink and on one beautiful moonlight night a group of young and old had a marvellous skating party ending up with a huge bonfire at Professor Touche's cottage. Professor Touche was a fine violinist and teacher who started many a Lacombe youngster on a musical career and owned the cottage which was later bought by Dolly Jenkins and incorporated into the store.

The water continued to rise and by 1920 Sucker Ditch was full and spreading out over the grain fields. This was quite a novelty and the young people often went canoeing there. That year was a highlight in Nena Ross's life. She and a friend were guests at the Lakeview Hotel over the Dominion Day holiday. As so often happens, even today, it poured rain. The guests were forced to remain indoors, eating wonderful meals served by uniformed waitresses and relaxing in overstuffed armchairs in front of a huge fire roaring in the massive fireplace. They spent their time playing games such as "I Spy" and "Button, button, who's got the button," and singing all the songs they knew. One of the guests was an accomplished pianist who never tired of playing for the sing-song and for dancing after dinner. There was another guest, a handsome returned R.C.A.F. officer, and one of the first Gull Lake romances began.

It was ten years before Nena and her handsome husband, Arthur Eastes, returned from far-off places to live in Ponoka and renew her association with the Lake. One day she and her friend, Mrs. Thomson, drove out for a picnic bringing along her own three children and Mrs. Thomson's son. They camped in her favourite spot where the Green Apple is today. This tract of land was owned by Bob Scott of Lacombe and it was rumoured that it was shortly to be subdivided and lots sold.

The next summer on a Sunday in early July Bob Scott held his auction and sold every lot. The purchasers came from Lacombe, Ponoka, Leduc, Rimby, Vulcan, Calgary and Edmonton. Among them were the Kennedys, Cutlers, J.S.McCormick, Tommy Wilks, Bowens, Smythes, and McLeods. It was during the Depression and yet, by fall, every purchaser had built a cottage.

Nena Eastes and her family went to the lake frequently, however they did not own a cottage, but rented. One of the cottages they rented was named "Dug-Inn" which was owned by Mr. Sandbrook who also owned the Lakeview Hotel and was named after his son-in-law Douglas Innes of Ponoka.

In 1944 the war was still on and gas rationing made it impossible for the Smythe family, who had purchased one of Bob Scott's lots, to drive from Medicine Hat. Mrs. Smythe wrote to her friend, Mrs. Windlow, asking her to sell the cottage. Mrs. Smythe was the daughter of the Yules, owners of the Medicine Hat Potteries. The Eastes went to look it over. Nena said later that she did not notice the fine cedar wood or the lofty ceilings, screened porches, stone fireplace and brass bedsteads. Her eyes were focused on the brightly coloured pottery dishes in the kitchen. She fell in love with it and they bought it on the spot. "It was the finest investment we ever made and we named it 'Artiste' after the master of the house Arthur Eastes."

At long last she had a place of her own. The Second World War was still going on the first summer the family was in its own place. On a Saturday night when Arthur drove in from Ponoka for the weekend, as he stepped out of his car by pre-arrangement his teen agers and their friends hopped in and off they'd go to dance at Sylvan Lake where on many nights they could dance to "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven", which was Mart Kenny's orchestra, or other big name bands out in Alberta entertaining the troops who would make a stop at Sylvan Lake. Crowds of airmen from Penhold drawn from the British Empire for training would meet the local girls there. Arthur being an old airman himself, made all who came welcome at "Artiste". We had electricity by then and fancy me cooking for fifteen or more on two or three hot plates.

Nena went on to say that "eveyone remembers the night World War II was over." It was a hot August evening when the word came. J.S. McCormick invited us neighbours to a huge bonfire. Around that time Geraldine and Janet were married. Soon there was a new generation growing up.

During the 1960's swimming and sailing lessons were offered. Hayrides, masquerade parties, a regatta and a weekly dance and movie show came on the scene. Children of all ages enjoyed the lake. Then riding became the rage. In adddition to those who brought their own horses, there were three stables where any size of group could rent horses by the hour. Water sports were forgotten while kids rode around the country-side. Dune buggies, motorboats, surfboards became popular.

There was one thing "bugging" everyone. The water level was receding. Many beaches simply vanished, for instance at the Old Mill, the water went two or three miles away. Farmers bought up the cottages and moved them off to use as homes, the log ones fell down and rotted. Prof. Touche's cottage was bought by Dolly Jenkins and incorporated into the store. I sometimes wonder if I am the only one who remembers that fine violin teacher who started so many Lacombe youngsters, Jean Campbell Halton and Myrtle Cochran Patchet on a musical career.

I remember Mitchell's store where our toddlers, clutching a dime would make for, and buy "keem kombs." It was from near there that a little girl from Ponoka disappeared one evening. Volunteers from all over the country came to search for her and were served coffee and sandwiches by the lake women until the lifeless little body was found - the victim of a sadist who was never apprehended. It came as a shock to all of us who thought every child was safe here. About then someone stole Dick Thomson's car right out of his yard.

By and large the memories are lovely. We recall the time when older children, clutching their quarters, were off to Hannigans to leap on the trampolines, or the young fellows with money rushing out to buy sweet buns from the Dutch Bakery man from Lacombe. Electricity had put fridges in place of ice boxes so Ted Jenkins didn't need to come by with ice any more.

Last week, Clint Reed and I ate pancakes in the hall and experienced once again the friendly spirit that has prevailed in this "the loveliest spot on earth."

Ott: *"Have you heard the latest?"*

No

Ott: *"Neither have I - It hasn't leaked out yet!"*

"ARTISTE" AND "THISTLEDO"
#107 & 109 Premier Avenue

By Dave and Helen Jantzie

Dave and Helen Jantzie bought "Artiste" from Helen's parents, Art and Nena Eastes, in 1972. The Eastes had owned the cottage since 1944. They had bought it from the original owner, Marjorie Smythe. The Smythes and Bowens (Marg Halpen's parents) had bought the last two lots for sale in the Scott Subdivision in 1931.

Helen Eastes Jantzie had learned to walk on the beach at Gull Lake in the early 30's. Her parents rented a cottage each summer until 1944, when they bought "Artiste". Helen and her two sisters were raised spending their holidays at the lake.

In the early 1950's, Helen and Dave Jantzie's children started a new generation coming to the cottage. In 1972, Helen and Dave took over ownership of the cabin, but Grandma Nena continued to share "life at the lake" with her present husband, Clint Reed, and her grandchildren. The Jantzie's three children are now parents with children of their own, and a fourth generation is in residence at "Artiste".

Helen and Dave are retired now, and reside at the cabin four or five months each summer. In 1979, they bought the house next door called "Thistledo". This cottage was first owned by Dick Thomson, a Ponoka businessman, who built it in the early 1930's. This was a cottage that Helen and her mother had visited at many times years ago, as the Eastes and the Thomson's were friends.

The David Jantzie Family, (back row) Clark, Janet and Geo Frohlich, Tim, (front row) Lorrie, Helen and Dave Jantzie and Judy.

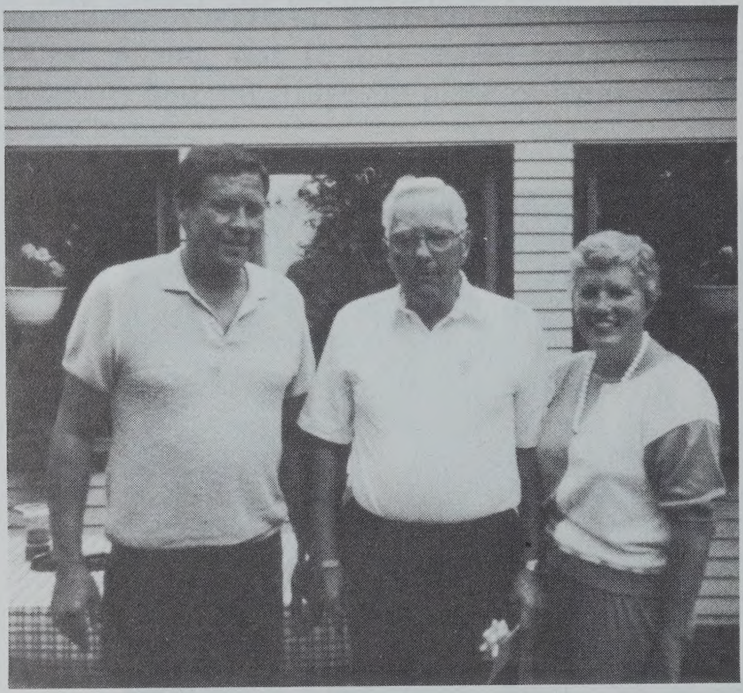
"LAFFALOT"
#115 Premier Avenue

By Arline Williams Dagg

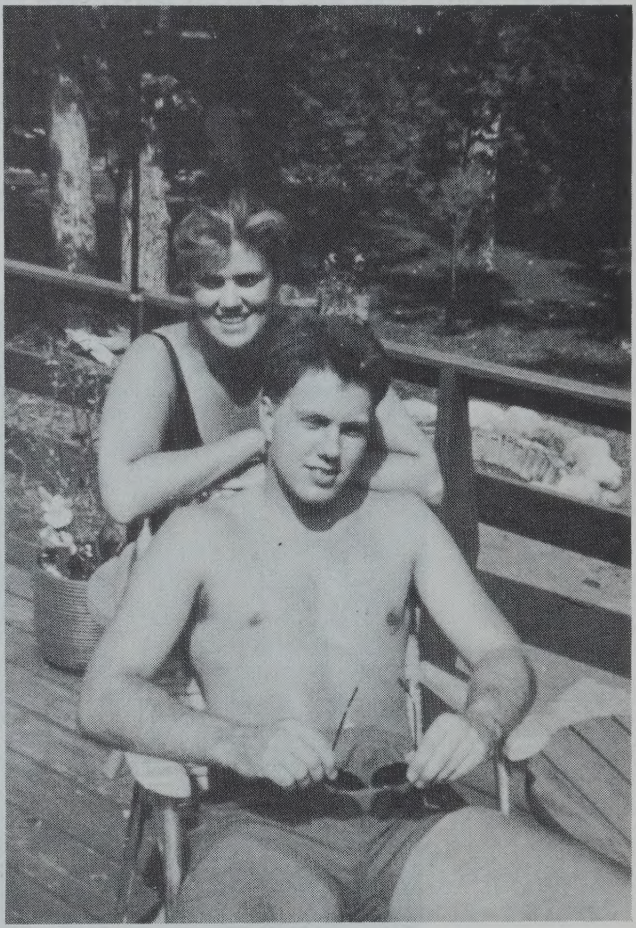
Our cottage was built in the twenties and was owned by Mr. & Mrs. T. Wilkes. Mr. Wilkes was a former mayor of Lacombe. My parents, Lyal and Clara Williams, bought it in 1946. It was called "Swish Inn". My husband, Jim, and I have been owners since 1974.

Some of my memories of growing up at Gull Lake in the forties and fifties were:

- Visiting Mr. Brewer and trying to milk his goats.
- Running telephone messages for Dolly from Lorimer's Store and picking up the mail.
- Going to the "pig train" on Mondays to help them load the pigs.
- Riding our bikes to Bentley on the old gravel highway for soft ice cream at the drug store.
- Doing chores, pumping water, bringing in wood, lighting the lamps, chopping ice off the ice block for cold drinks.
- Chasing "ghosts" in the old haunted hotel.
- Buying peanut brittle at Gunn's Candy Store.



1986 - Jim Dagg, Lyal Williams, and Arline Williams Dagg celebrate Lyal's 75th birthday.



1987 - Terry Lee Dagg Gunn and Donald Dagg.

THE TEA GARDEN
#117 Premier Avenue

By Ted and Jean Chapman

Ted had the cottage built in 1930. We lived at the Lake all winter in 1940 and stayed there until March of 1942.

I had a tea garden at the cottage in the summer of 1941. Ted built the tables from trees on our property. There were four or five of them. Ted bought five brightly coloured tea pots and I used the rest of the dishes from my cupboard. Many of the cottagers came for tea. I served sandwiches, cakes and tea. One of the cottagers came almost every day and brought many of her guests as well.

If the weather was poor, tea was not served as it was in the garden.

Our cottage is now owned by Don Williams.

1941 - The Chapman's Tea Garden with tables and chairs made from trees.

"What?"

Ott: *"He invented the light bulb."*

"ARUNDEL" AND "WILDWOOD"
Scott's Drive

By Ellen Howard

In the early years, (1915), my parents rented a cottage for the summer. Time beclaused the memory but I have vague recollections of the cottages, nestled amongst the heavy growth of aspen trees and standing some 30 to 50 feet from the water's edge - so convenient for a quick midnight dip. I also remember friends from Edmonton, with theatrical talents, deciding one evening to teach the "Fox Trot" (or was it the "Two Step"), to all who wished to keep up with the Modern Dance!!

In later years, (1952), the Howards purchased "Arnundel" from Mr. Fletcher. It was a prefab cabin assembled in 1939. They also bought "Wildwood" from Mrs. Jacques, the latter cottage having been dragged across the ice from a north-east point.

Those were the years when once off No. 2 Highway, one faced eight miles of slippery, slimy clay or treacherous muddy potholes. "Skippy", our jolly little Beagle, would herald our arrival with his baying barks and yelps, not appreciated by the neighbours who dubbed him "Beagle the Bugler".

The Howard families enjoyed some twenty years of relaxation at the lake. Grandpa H. would come up for weekends, primarily for a session of gin rummy with the late Reg. Jennings. Winning was a victory; losses were never mentioned.

Howard Cottage "Arundel".

One summer, Grandpa - as was his want - offered "Wildwood" to his friends who had recently come from Eastern Canada and who were not too familiar with our prairie towns. It proved to be a very wet month of August, not conducive to entertaining three small children who had looked forward to building castles in the dry white sand. One can understand their discomfort and sympathize with their utter dismay in waiting day after day for a trunk full of clothing which had unfortunately been directed to Gull Lake, Saskatchewan.

While Hal and I have written off our Gull Lake days, it is gratifying to know that the Davis family, Pat, Stephanie, (our daughter) and their two sons, have built a sizeable cottage where they spend many weekends and holidays throughout the year. Rick, our youngest son, hopes to build on his property some day.

Stephanie and Peter Howard.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

LAKE AREA

WES JACKSON'S EARLY MEMORIES OF GULL LAKE

As told to Gordon Connell

Independent Creameries, which was owned by Wes Jackson, started operating in Lacombe in 1944. Milk deliveries to Gull Lake began in 1945, as a number of cottage owners wanted pasteurized milk. This caused some hard feelings as several faithful farmers in the lake area, including the Windlows, Jenkins and Hendersons were delivering milk at that time. In the 1920's, Hugs used to deliver milk, also milk could be purchased at Fernie's store. When eggs were selling for about five cents a dozen in the 1930's, Mrs. Henderson used to make angel food cakes out of her eggs so she received about a dollar for the eggs used in the cakes. The Windlows used to deliver candy as well as milk.

People from Bentley delivered vegetables and meat. Many mothers with children at the Lake had no transportation, so the milkman for the Independent Creameries used to take orders for meat. A deal was made with Harry Hopkins of the Lacombe Meat Market so that the meat orders were filled and delivered with the milkman the next day.

Milk was delivered to the Lake seven days a week. The milkman also used to deliver beer ordered by cottage owners. At times he would have twenty cases of beer hidden under the milk cans. On one occasion, Wes had a call from the lake to say that the milkman was in trouble. While he was delivering milk to a cottage where the owner wasn't present, he helped himself to liquor that was in the ice box and he drank too much.

The milkman also would bring out distilled water for babies who suffered from colic when drinking well water. When steam irons first came into the picture in the 1950's, the creamery made distilled water available to prevent rust from plugging up the irons. The lake residents also found out that distilled water was better for mixing with Scotch Whiskey than well water that turned the whiskey black.

There used to be a service station near where the Community Hall is now. Mr. Wiese had a cottage across the road from Ott's store. A thirteen room hotel was built in 1906. It was later made into a three story hotel. Doug Innes's grandfather, Mr. Sandbrook, operated this hotel at one time. The Lions Club of Lacombe used to take seniors and children to the lake. They played games with the children including a peanut scramble.

GLADYS EBELING SELTENRICH

As told to Gordon Connell

Gladys' grandfather, John Ebeling, drove the Wiese family from Lacombe to Gull Lake in 1900 in a wagon. Part of the Wiese house was moved across the road and is now occupied by Phyllis and Ted Jenkins.

The main road from Lacombe went through in 1901. It went one half mile south, then two and one half miles west to the meridian then back north to where the highway is now. The road past the lake went to the Lincoln cottage, now owned by Ron Jennings at 73 Premier Avenue, then swung down in front of the bushes just south of the lake, then west to the road, just east of the Ebeling subdivision.

After 1905, the Government installed a telephone exchange on the Wiese property. The Wiese's daughter, Linda, was the telephone operator.

Gladys was born in what is now the Ebeling subdivision just west of the Village of Gull Lake.

The children of the Ebeling subdivision used to play war games with children of the Village. Empty tin cans were used as ammunition. The cans were thrown across the road at the west end of the Village. If a child was hit by a can, he or she had to fall down in the ditch.

Gladys can remember two steam boats on the lake. The smaller one, owned by Walker, was called the *Sea Gull.* The larger one, owned by Cummings, was called the *Kangaroo.*

THE HUG FAMILY

By John L. Hug

John Hug, originally from Kansas, came from Illinois in April of 1916 to Lacombe, Alberta. His son, also John Hug, was five years old and he attended school at Sunny Crest until the family moved to Aspen Beach where they secured a farm. John attended school in Woody Nook and delivered milk around Aspen Beach for some years.

When the Hugs first came to the Summer Resort at Gull Lake, it was quite popular with tourists, mainly from Edmonton and Calgary. John worked at the Lake and helped build summer cottages with Bert Newman. About 1933 or '34, the sandflies became a major pest and washed up on the beach about six inches deep, which ruined the beach area. Frank Barr solved the problem with a horse-drawn grader, grading them up from the water far enough to be out of the road. John worked several summers raking them up with a hand rake and loading them on a wagon to haul away.

John worked several winters cutting ice on the Lake with Fernies and Ott Woellner. For several winters he went around with a woodsawing outfit, cutting wood for some of the people in the area. John and Howard Saunders started a baseball team and for several years they played in Aspen Beach Park, playing against several of the neighboring teams.

In 1940, John was married to Lorna Beranek from Morningside. For forty years they lived on the farm that John had bought in 1930. In 1980 they sold their home to their son-in-law and daughter, Howard and Betty Burton and moved to the Creston Valley in B. C., close to the home and orchards of their son, Ron, and his wife, Nancy.

In 1942, Lorna and John sold garden produce to the summer people at the Lake and continued it for several years and also sold them eggs and frying chickens.

Lorna and John had five children. Ron was the oldest. He attended school at Woody Nook, Bentley, Lacombe and Red Deer and finished in Calgary, becoming a Chemical Lab Technician. Donna, their second child, finished school in Bentley. She took a beauty course in Calgary where she now lives. Betty went to school in Bentley. She and Howard are living on the home place. Rose Marie graduated from high school in Red Deer and worked in the Bank of Commerce for a few years. She is married to Ken Bates and lives in North Vancouver. Robert went to school in Bentley and to Olds College. He worked for several summers at the Provincial Park in Gull Lake. He was killed in a tragic car accident in 1979.

While in Gull Lake, Lorna was a member of several clubs; The Happy Gang, Searchlight, C.W.L. and the Women's League. The Hugs were active in the district social activities and in church work in both Bentley and Lacombe. John was on the School Board for several years. They left many friends in Alberta and have made many new friends since moving to the Creston Valley.

SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Shopping for Food Supplies:

- Local farmers peddling vegetables on back lane.
- Bentley Meat Market & Bakery called twice a week.
- Brought basics from home and then relied on local stores, often trips once a week to Lacombe or Red Deer.
- Chicken, milk, baking, vegetables, ice - delivered on back lane.
- "Mary's Bakery" - in old Fernie house, Mary Meredith's wonderful fresh pies!
- After Mary, Dutch bakery run by the Kochens.
- Gunn's Candy Kitchen - best homemade candy.
- Milk delivery at different periods of time.
- Hamburgers from Hannigans down by the trampolines.
- Peter McCalla's family had a large grocery order set out from Edmonton by freight each year. In 1954, the cost of groceries for one month was $51.28.

The Depression:

- Whole families lived at the Lake for July and August - lots of kids.
- Many people came to the Lake enjoying the special relaxation and pleasure at a price they could afford.
- Many cottages were abandoned. You could rent them for $5.00 - $10.00 per month.

- Several cottages closed up all summer.
- Gas rationing affected people going to the Lake.

Dances:

- Saturday night dances at Fernie's or Sandbrook's.
- Dickie Damron and also the Red Barons (from Red Deer) played at the old hall.
- Dances at the Village Hall and at Sylvan Lake were very memorable.
- Dancing on the roof of the Thistle Inn.
- Three dance halls in the 1920's. Dances were 5 - 10 cents per set.
- No bar at the Lake because the liquor license was always voted down.

Swimming and Boating:

- The annual Regatta was enjoyed and participated in by everyone.
- Swimming lessons were given at the hall.
- Village recreation program, such as the Ski Club.
- Sailboat races for the past 30 years.
- The Wrigley Swim Meet.
- Aspen Beach had a large passenger launch that carried many people. You could take this launch to Brownlows' Landing for a picnic.
- The rowboat and canoe races in the Regatta.
- Bussing to the pool in Red Deer for swimming lessons.
- "Polar Bear Club"

Colorful Characters:

- Leban Sandbrook, elegant in his white flannel suit, white shoes, top hat and cane judged the sand castle competitions for the children. He also had an ice cream concession.
- Ott (usually without his teeth), delivered ice and wood and always - a joke!
- Dolly is missed terribly by the oldtimers. She always had a story to tell.
- Using the old phone at Dolly's Store was an interesting way to spend an evening.
- Phil courting Dolly at the store.
- Phil struggling with the mail.
- Phyllis and Ted Jenkins known and loved by all.
- All the fun riding on Reg McVittie's wagon while he collected the garbage.
- Alf and Dolly Taylor at the horse stable.

Church:

- Mr. McLeod of Lacombe operated Sunday School in Fernie's Hall.
- The Pentecostal Church in Bentley.
- Baptist Camp operated at McLauren's Beach.
- United Church camp at Meridian Beach.
- The outdoor church.

I Remember:

- Fun times at the Village Hall - trying to keep dry on rainy nights. One overnight camp we were at was rained out, so we moved into the hall. However, it wasn't much better.
- Bridge at different friends' cottages.
- Fun with Brian and Vicki, the recreation directors.
- Old timers telling stories about when the lake was right up to the cabins.
- The year the large picnic was held for the G.W.G. workers.

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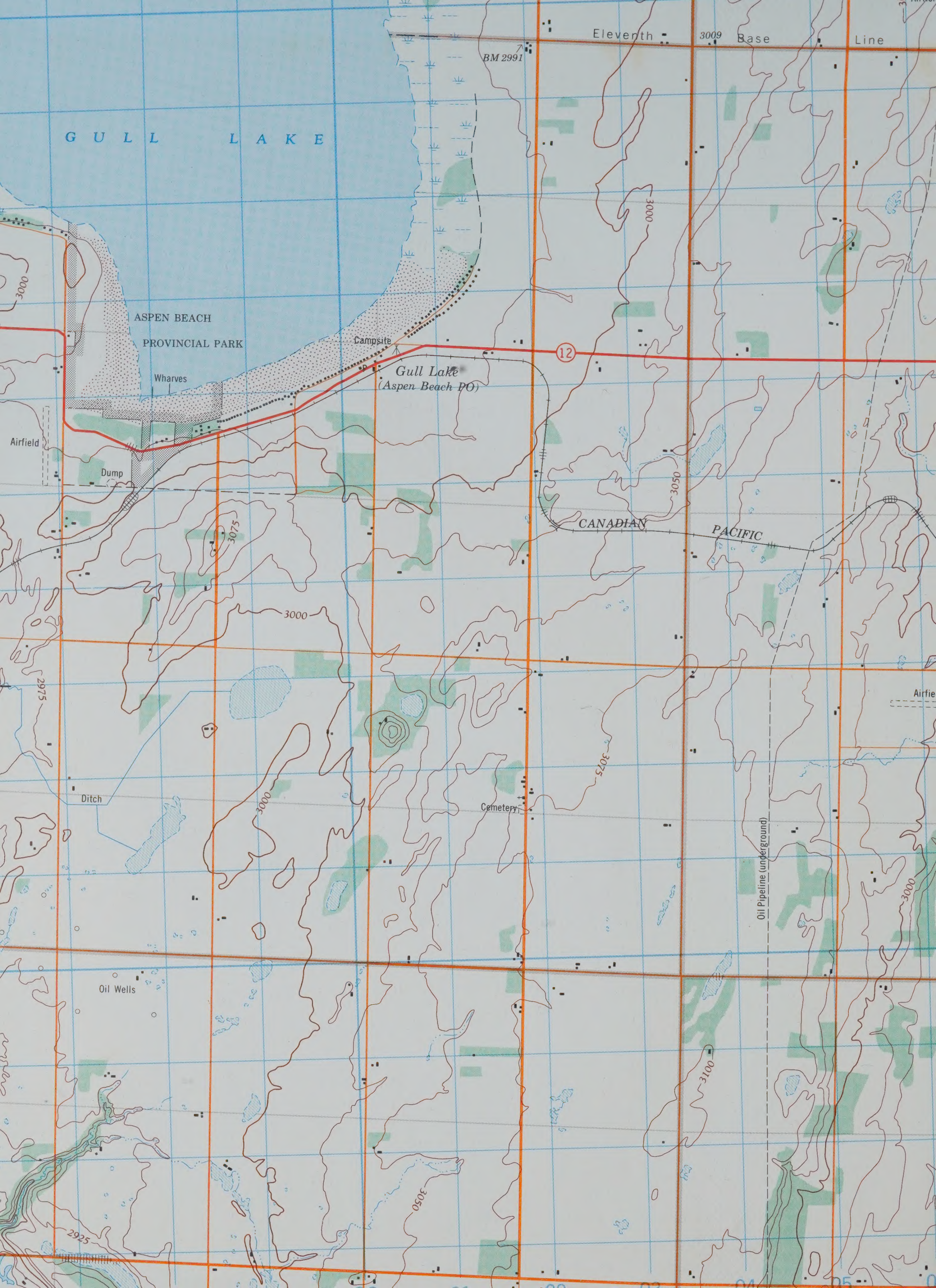
- The year the large picnic was held for the G.W.G. workers.
- Mr. & Mrs. George Willson recall seeing Wop May land his plane on the lake several times. Once he crashed and lost one pontoon.
- Macdonald's Dancing Academy here in the 1920's. They lived in the Thistle Inn for July and August and taught dancing. Mary Shortliffe and Jessie Hay took lessons in 1921 at the age of six.
- Softball every night at Fernie's during the 20's and 30's.
- The huge bonfires on the beach.
- Locking my sister in the outhouse.
- Sitting out front and watching a storm come across the lake.
- Driving out from Lacombe and watching for the first glimpse of the lake.
- Spending all day making a sand castle and then having a storm come up at night and wash it away.
- Jessie Fernie Gibbons remembers the Indians that camped by Sucker Ditch every spring. They would come with their wagons and families on their way out west of Rimbey looking for wild game. You would see them pass again in the fall on their way back to the reservation.
- Verna McTavish tells of the beautiful fireplace in her cabin that was built by George Fernie and Bruce. It was made from petrified wood and wine bottles.

THE END


Eleventh Base Line
3009
BM 2991
GULL LAKE
3000
ASPEN BEACH
PROVINCIAL PARK
Wharves
Campsite
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Gull Lake
(Aspen Beach PO)
Airfield
Dump
3075
3050
CANADIAN PACIFIC
3000
2975
Ditch
Cemetery
3075
3000
Oil Pipeline (underground)
3000
Oil Wells
3100
3050
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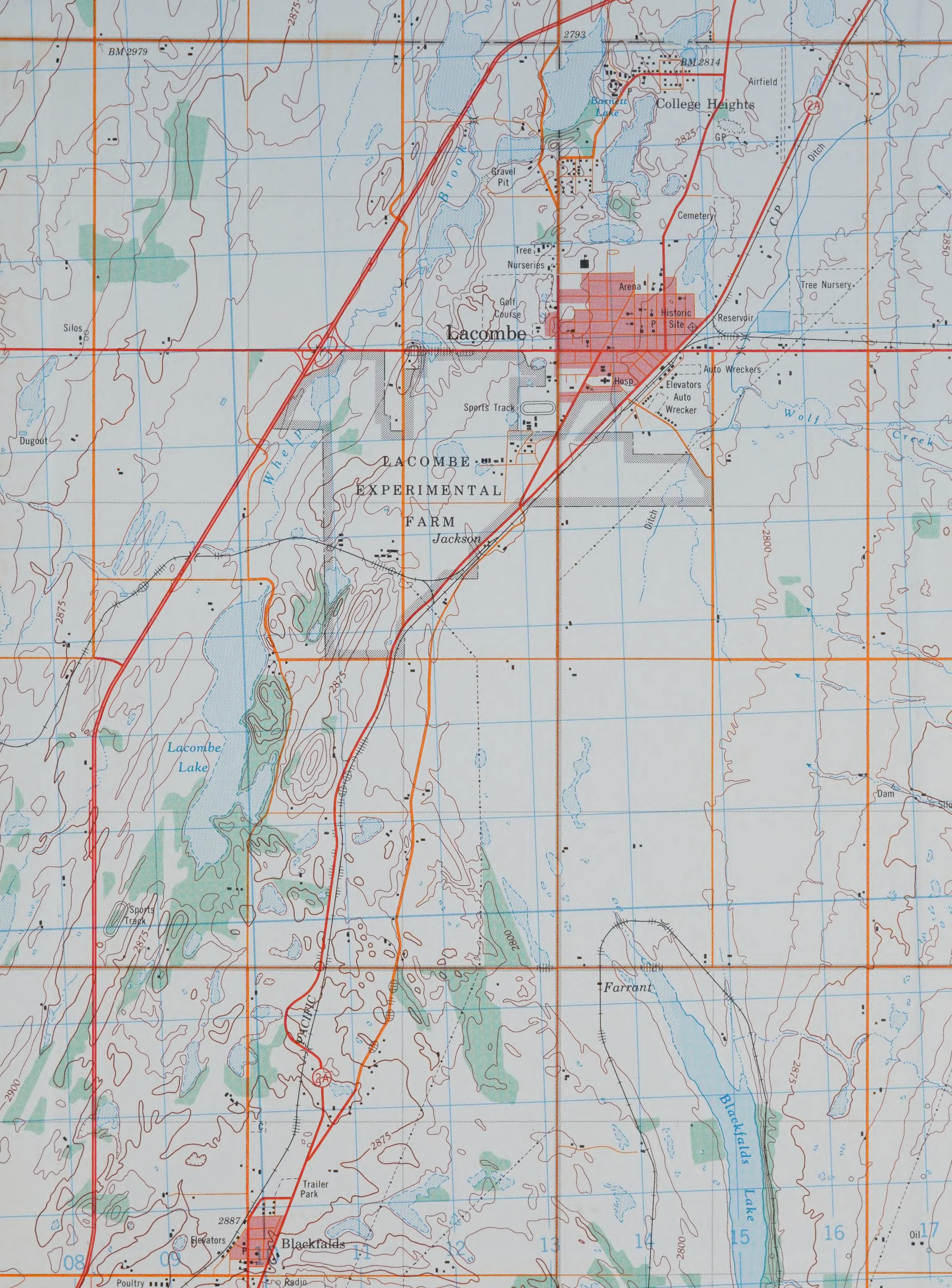
BM 2979
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Airfield
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College Heights
2A
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Ditch
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Cemetery
CP
2850
Tree Nurseries
Arena
Historic Site
Tree Nursery
Golf Course
Reservoir
Silos
Lacombe
P
Auto Wreckers
Hosp
Elevators
Auto Wrecker
Sports Track
Wolf Creek
Dugout
Whelp
LACOMBE EXPERIMENTAL FARM
Jackson
Ditch
2800
2875
2875
Lacombe Lake
Dam
Silo
Sports Track
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Trailer Park
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